

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 302 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, MENSCH, ROBBINS, YUDICHAK, YAW, VULAKOVICH,
ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, SOLOBAY AND HUGHES,
JANUARY 25, 2013

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JANUARY 25, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act relating to counties of the first, third,
3 fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending,
4 revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating
5 thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties,
6 including authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the
7 rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and
8 providing for regional renaissance initiatives," further
9 providing for compilation of war records and the director of
10 veterans' affairs.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 1923(g) of the act of August 9, 1955
14 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, amended October 4,
15 1978 (P.L.964, No.190), is amended and the section is amended by
16 adding subsections to read:

17 Section 1923. Compilation of War Records; Director of
18 Veterans' Affairs.--* * *

19 (f.1) (1) In order to be eligible for appointment as a
20 director of veterans' affairs, a person must maintain a
21 Department of Veterans Affairs accreditation with the Department

of Military and Veterans Affairs or national association in accordance with the provisions of 38 CFR § 14.629 (relating to requirements for accreditation of service organization representatives; agents; and attorneys) as a condition of employment.

(2) The county commissioners shall:

(i) Appoint the director of veterans' affairs.

(ii) Approve compensation for the director of veterans' affairs as set by the salary board.

(iii) Provide office space, equipment and support staff in the courthouse or another centrally accessible location.

(g) It shall also be the duty of the director of veterans affairs to:

(1) Assist the county commissioners in administering the provisions of this subdivision which relate to the burial of deceased service persons and their surviving spouses and to [furnishing] furnish markers and [placing] place headstones on their graves.

(2) Assist war veterans and their families in securing their rights as such in matters relating to their person, property and care of family, under any of the laws of this Commonwealth and of the United States[, and for such services the director of veterans affairs shall be entitled to his expenses incurred therein and additional compensation. Both expenses and compensation shall be subject to the approval of the salary board].

(3) Assist the county commissioners in transmitting records of burial places of deceased service persons to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs [of the Commonwealth], for the use of the Deputy Adjutant General [in charge of Veteran] for

Veterans Affairs, and otherwise assist the commissioners in cooperating with the said deputy.

(4) Serve as a local contact between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and persons in the armed forces of the United States who were discharged from such service and the dependents of such persons.

(5) Advise persons in the armed forces and veterans or their dependents of Federal, State and county veterans' benefits available to them.

(6) Aid persons in the armed forces and veterans or their dependents in completing required Federal, State and local veterans' affairs forms in compliance with current regulations and policies.

(7) Work under the direct supervision of the county commissioners and within the guidelines provided by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(h) A director of veterans affairs shall participate in programs provided by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs including:

(1) Annual training and refresher courses provided by the Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs.

(2) Five-year recertification as required by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans service officer accreditation.

(i) The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs shall establish a director of veterans affairs training program as agreed upon in accordance with the State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs, including:

- 1 (1) Promulgation of rules and program procedures pursuant to
2 the requirements of this subdivision.
- 3 (2) Maintenance of training records.
- 4 (3) Maintenance of competency scores for purposes of
5 documenting and monitoring accreditation status.
- 6 (4) Annual recertification and qualification.
- 7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.