

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 2126 Session of  
2019

---

INTRODUCED BY MURT, DECEMBER 16, 2019

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, DECEMBER 16, 2019

---

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs,  
3 further providing for veterans registry; and making an  
4 editorial change.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Chapter 7 heading of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 7

10 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

11 Section 2. Section 712(a), (c) and (f) of Title 51 are  
12 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to  
13 read:

14 § 712. Veterans registry.

15 (a) Establishment of veterans registry.--The department  
16 shall establish a registry of veterans residing in this  
17 Commonwealth in order to provide information on Federal, State  
18 and local government benefits, programs and services available  
19 to veterans and to link veterans with resources that can provide

1 assistance. Upon registration, if permission is granted by the  
2 registrant, the registrant's information shall be shared with  
3 county directors of veterans affairs [and], other State agencies  
4 and the State System of Higher Education.

5 \* \* \*

6 (c) Duties of department.--The department shall provide  
7 access to a paper and an online registry form which contain a  
8 statement indicating the purpose for the registry. The forms  
9 shall be developed to obtain the following information relating  
10 to the veteran:

11 (1) Personal information, including title, first, middle  
12 and last name.

13 (2) Age, gender, address and county of residence.

14 (3) Ten-digit phone number and e-mail address.

15 (4) Declaration of military service.

16 (5) Benefit and program information requests for various  
17 benefits and programs for which veterans may be eligible.

18 (5.1) A statement as to whether the veteran is  
19 interested in pursuing higher education, training programs or  
20 professional development opportunities at institutions of  
21 higher education within the State System of Higher Education.  
22 The forms shall include a choice for the veteran to request  
23 assistance with counseling and life changes through the  
24 veteran's transition to a student of higher education.

25 (6) A signed statement, or, for online applicants, a box  
26 that is checked, indicating that the veteran grants  
27 permission for the department to store and share the  
28 veteran's information with the county director of veterans  
29 affairs for the county indicated [and with], other State  
30 agencies and the State System of Higher Education to ensure

1 that the Commonwealth provides the veteran assistance in  
2 receiving earned benefits and information about opportunities  
3 for higher education available at the State System of Higher  
4 Education.

5 (7) The State agency which assisted the veteran.

6 \* \* \*

7 (f) Report.--By January 1, 2018, and each January 1  
8 thereafter, the department shall submit to the chairperson and  
9 minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency  
10 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and  
11 minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency  
12 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives a report  
13 on the registry which shall include:

14 (1) The total number of veterans registered with the  
15 department annually.

16 (2) The number of registrants received by each State  
17 agency.

18 (3) The number of veterans who choose not to be included  
19 in the registry annually from each State agency.

20 (4) Outreach expenses incurred by the department.

21 (5) The number of registrants who expressed interest in  
22 higher education under subsection (c)(5.1).

23 \* \* \*

24 (h) Interagency agreement.--The department shall enter into  
25 an interagency agreement with the State System of Higher  
26 Education to establish and administer a veteran support and  
27 partnership program that provides information from the registry  
28 to the State System of Higher Education in order for the State  
29 System of Higher Education to identify veterans and tailor  
30 programs to best serve the veterans' needs for higher education.

1 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.