

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2786 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS, FAIRCHILD, READSHAW, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BAKER, BLACKWELL, BOBACK, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, DALEY, DALLY, DENLINGER, ELLIS, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KING, KORTZ, KULA, LENTZ, MARSHALL, MELIO, MENSCH, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MOYER, MURT, NAILOR, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PETRONE, PICKETT, PYLE, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROHRER, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, R. STEVENSON, SURRA, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUE, WALKO, WATSON, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the State
3 Veterans' Commission.

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

6 Section 1. Section 1702 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 1702. State Veterans' Commission.

9 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established within the
10 department an advisory commission to be known as the State
11 Veterans' Commission.

12 (b) Composition.--The commission shall be composed of:

13 (1) The Adjutant General, ex officio, or his designee.

1 (2) The State commander, commandant or head, or his
2 designee, of each of the following named veterans'
3 organizations:

4 (i) The American Legion.

5 (ii) AMVETS.

6 (iii) Blinded Veterans Association.

7 (iv) Catholic War Veterans of the United States of
8 America.

9 (v) Disabled American Veterans.

10 (vi) Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

11 (vii) Marine Corps League.

12 (viii) Military Order of the Purple Heart.

13 (ix) State Association of County Directors of
14 Veterans' Affairs.

15 (x) Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

16 (xi) Veterans of World War I of the United States of
17 America, Inc.

18 (xii) Italian-American War Veterans of the United
19 States, Inc.

20 (xiii) The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

21 (xiv) American Ex-Prisoners of War.

22 (xv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association.

23 (xvi) Korean War Veterans Association.

24 (3) Four members at large appointed by the Governor from
25 a list provided by the Adjutant General, each of whom shall
26 be a veteran and a member in good and regular standing of a
27 Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized
28 national veterans' organization active in this Commonwealth.
29 At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least
30 one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam era. Members at

1 large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor
2 has been appointed.

3 (4) The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the
4 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign
5 Wars (VFW) and the Executive Director of AMVETS as nonvoting
6 members.

7 (c) Officers.--The commission shall annually elect a
8 chairman and vice chairman at the first meeting of the
9 commission after October 1. The Deputy Adjutant General for
10 Veterans' Affairs shall serve as the executive secretary to the
11 commission.

12 (d) Compensation and expenses.--Members of the commission
13 shall receive no compensation for their services but shall
14 receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses
15 for attendance at meetings.

16 (e) Meetings and quorum.--The commission shall meet upon the
17 call of the chairman or the Adjutant General. Nine members of
18 the commission shall constitute a quorum.

19 (f) Declared vacancies.--The Governor, upon recommendation
20 of the Adjutant General, shall declare a vacancy to exist
21 whenever any member at large fails to attend three consecutive
22 meetings without good cause. Any declared vacancy shall be
23 filled for the unexpired term.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.