

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 345 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ROBBINS, SOLOBAY, MENSCH, PIPPY, D. WHITE, BROWNE, COSTA, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, FERLO, FONTANA, YAW AND YUDICHAK, JANUARY 31, 2011

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 31, 2011

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

1 of Military and Veterans Affairs or National Association in  
2 accordance with the provisions of 38 CFR § 14.629 (relating to  
3 requirements for accreditation of service organization  
4 representatives; agents; and attorneys) as a condition of  
5 employment.

6 (2) The county commissioners shall:

7 (i) Appoint the director of veterans' affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (i) The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Office  
27 of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs shall  
28 establish a director of veterans affairs training program as  
29 agreed upon in accordance with PSADVA including:

30 (1) Promulgation of rules and program procedures pursuant to

1 the requirements of this subdivision.

2 (2) Maintenance of training records.

3 (3) Maintenance of competency scores for purposes of  
4 documenting and monitoring accreditation status.

5 (4) Annual recertification and qualification.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.