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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 378 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY KASUNIC, STACK, WASHINGTON, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE,  
KITCHEN, TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, BROWNE, LEACH, COSTA,  
WAUGH, BOSCOLA AND BRUBAKER, JANUARY 31, 2013

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JANUARY 31, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, changing the name of the Department of  
3 Military and Veterans Affairs; establishing the Department of  
4 Veterans Affairs, the bureaus within the department and the  
5 State Veterans Commission; providing for the powers and  
6 duties of the Department of Veterans Affairs and its bureaus;  
7 and making conforming amendments and editorial changes.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 102 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania  
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

12 § 102. Definitions.

13 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
14 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific  
15 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when  
16 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly  
17 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

18 "Armory." Land, buildings and fixtures used for housing  
19 elements of the Pennsylvania military forces.

1 "Department." The Department of Military [and Veterans]  
2 Affairs of the Commonwealth.

3 "National Defense Act." The act of Congress, entitled "An  
4 act for making further and more effectual provisions for the  
5 National Defense and for other purposes," approved June 3, 1916,  
6 its amendments and supplements.

7 "National Guard of the United States." The Army National  
8 Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the  
9 United States.

10 "Officer." Commissioned or warrant officer.

11 "Order." General or special order, oral or written, whether  
12 issued pursuant to State or Federal authority.

13 "Pennsylvania Guard." Those organized units of the  
14 Pennsylvania military forces which are not Federally recognized  
15 or which serve under the authority of the Governor when the  
16 Pennsylvania National Guard, in whole or in part, is on extended  
17 Federal active duty.

18 "Pennsylvania military forces." The land, air and sea  
19 military units organized for the internal security of this  
20 Commonwealth.

21 "Pennsylvania National Guard." The Pennsylvania Army  
22 National Guard and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

23 Section 2. Section 701 of Title 51 is repealed:

24 [§ 701. Overall powers of department.

25 (a) Powers and duties.--The department shall continue to  
26 exercise the powers and perform the duties by law vested in and  
27 imposed upon the Adjutant General and the department.

28 (b) Designation.--The Department of Military Affairs is  
29 designated as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.  
30 Contracts, deeds and official actions by the department shall

1 not be affected by the use of the designation by the department  
2 as the Department of Military Affairs. The department may  
3 continue to use the name Department of Military Affairs on  
4 stationery or any official documents until existing supplies are  
5 exhausted. The department may substitute the title Department of  
6 Military and Veterans Affairs for the Department of Military  
7 Affairs on its documents and materials on such schedule as it  
8 deems appropriate.]

9 Section 3. Title 51 is amended by adding a section to read:  
10 § 701.1. Transfer provisions.

11 (a) Designation.--The Department of Military and Veterans  
12 Affairs is designated as the Department of Military Affairs.

13 (b) Transfer enumerated.--The following are transferred to  
14 the department:

15 (1) All bureaus, organizations and divisions in the  
16 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs relating to its  
17 military affairs functions enumerated in this title.

18 (2) All personnel, allocations, appropriations,  
19 equipment, files, records, contracts, agreements, obligations  
20 and other materials which are used, employed or expended by  
21 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in connection  
22 with the functions transferred by this section to the  
23 Department of Military Affairs in the first instance and as  
24 if these contracts, agreements and obligations had been  
25 incurred or entered into by the Department of Military  
26 Affairs.

27 (c) Apportionment.--The personnel, appropriations, equipment  
28 and other items and material transferred by this section shall  
29 include an appropriate portion of the general administrative,  
30 overhead and supporting personnel, appropriations, equipment and

1 other material of the agency and shall also include, where  
2 applicable, Federal grants and funds and other benefits from any  
3 Federal program.

4 (d) Status of employees.--All personnel transferred under  
5 this section shall retain any civil service employment status  
6 assigned to the personnel.

7 Section 4. Section 704 and Subchapters A and B of Chapter 17  
8 of Title 51 are repealed:

9 [§ 704. Advisory councils for veterans' homes.

10 (a) Establishment of advisory council.--There is hereby  
11 established an advisory council for each veterans' home operated  
12 by the Commonwealth. Each advisory council shall consist of 15  
13 members and the Adjutant General, who shall serve ex officio.  
14 Twelve of the members shall be appointed by the Governor from a  
15 list of nominations submitted to the Adjutant General by the  
16 Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council. The Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate  
18 shall each appoint one member from their respective bodies to  
19 serve on each council. The remaining member on the advisory  
20 council shall be selected by the residents of the veterans'  
21 homes.

22 (b) Term of office and officers.--Each member of the  
23 councils appointed from the General Assembly shall serve for the  
24 duration of that General Assembly. The eight members appointed  
25 by the Governor shall serve a term of three years, provided that  
26 the initial eight members selected by the Governor shall serve  
27 as follows: three members for one year, three members for two  
28 years and two members for three years as designated by the  
29 Governor. Each council shall organize as soon as possible and  
30 shall annually elect a president, vice president and secretary.

1 (c) Removal for cause.--The members appointed by the  
2 Governor may be removed by the Governor for cause.

3 (d) Quorum and time of meetings.--Six members of a council  
4 shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the  
5 business of the council. Each advisory council shall meet at  
6 least quarterly and at other times at the call of the president.

7 (e) Expenses.--Members of each advisory council shall  
8 receive no compensation for their services but shall receive  
9 reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses for  
10 attendance at meetings.

11 (f) Power and duty of advisory councils.--Each veterans'  
12 home advisory council shall advise the Adjutant General as to  
13 the management, operation and the adequacy of facilities and  
14 services at their respective homes.]

15 [CHAPTER 17

16 STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION  
17 AND DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
18 FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

19 Subchapter

20 A. State Veterans' Commission

21 B. Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs

22 SUBCHAPTER A

23 STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION

24 Sec.

25 1701. Definitions.

26 1702. State Veterans' Commission.

27 1703. General powers and duties.

28 1704. Specific powers and duties.

29 1705. Veterans' home hall of fame.

30 § 1701. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established by  
5 this chapter.

6 § 1702. State Veterans' Commission.

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

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

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

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

15 (i) The American Legion.

16 (ii) AMVETS.

17 (iii) Blinded Veterans Association.

18 (iv) Catholic War Veterans of the United States of  
19 America.

20 (v) Disabled American Veterans.

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

22 (vii) Marine Corps League.

23 (viii) Military Order of the Purple Heart.

24 (ix) State Association of County Directors of  
25 Veterans' Affairs.

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

27 (xii) Italian-American War Veterans of the United  
28 States, Inc.

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

30 (xiv) American Ex-Prisoners of War.

1 (xv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association.

2 (xvi) Military Officers Association of America.

3 (3) Four members at large appointed by the Governor from  
4 a list provided by the Adjutant General, each of whom shall  
5 be a veteran and a member in good and regular standing of a  
6 Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized  
7 national veterans' organization active in this Commonwealth.  
8 At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least  
9 one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam era. Members at  
10 large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor  
11 has been appointed.

12 (4) The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the  
13 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign  
14 Wars (VFW) and the Executive Director of AMVETS as nonvoting  
15 members.

16 (c) Officers.--The commission shall annually elect a  
17 chairman and vice chairman at the first meeting of the  
18 commission after October 1. The Deputy Adjutant General for  
19 Veterans' Affairs shall serve as the executive secretary to the  
20 commission.

21 (d) Compensation and expenses.--Members of the commission  
22 shall receive no compensation for their services but shall  
23 receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses  
24 for attendance at meetings.

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

28 (f) Declared vacancies.--The Governor, upon recommendation  
29 of the Adjutant General, shall declare a vacancy to exist  
30 whenever any member at large fails to attend three consecutive

1 meetings without good cause. Any declared vacancy shall be  
2 filled for the unexpired term.

3 § 1703. General powers and duties.

4 The commission shall advise the Adjutant General and the  
5 department on all matters pertaining to the status, welfare,  
6 benefits, employment and support of veterans and veterans'  
7 programs in this Commonwealth and shall perform such other  
8 functions as are provided by law.

9 § 1704. Specific powers and duties.

10 The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

11 (1) Advise the Adjutant General upon such matters as the  
12 Adjutant General may bring before it.

13 (2) Investigate the work of the department and make  
14 recommendations to it regarding the department's  
15 administration of the laws providing for the payment of  
16 pensions and relief, for the marking of graves of veterans  
17 and for the selection, acquisition and maintenance of a State  
18 military cemetery.

19 (3) Investigate and recommend to the Governor  
20 legislation for submission to the General Assembly concerning  
21 veterans and their activities.

22 (4) Oversee veterans' emergency assistance payments  
23 under Chapter 85 (relating to veterans' emergency  
24 assistance).

25 (5) Certify educational gratuity payments for eligible  
26 children under Chapter 87 (relating to educational gratuity  
27 program).

28 (6) Determine eligibility of veteran applicants for real  
29 property tax exemptions under Chapter 89 (relating to  
30 disabled veterans' real estate tax exemption).



1           (7) Promulgate rules and regulations governing all  
2 actions of the commission under paragraphs (4), (5) and (6).  
3 § 1705. Veterans' home hall of fame.

4           (a) General rule.--Each veterans' home operated by the  
5 Commonwealth shall establish and dedicate a hall of fame to  
6 recognize and honor the military achievements of outstanding  
7 veterans who have completed honorable, active duty military  
8 service and who reside or resided in the geographic region  
9 served by the veterans' home. The area or space in the veterans'  
10 home dedicated to the hall of fame may be used for other  
11 purposes.

12           (b) Selection of inductees.--The advisory council for each  
13 veterans' home shall, consistent with the guidelines established  
14 by the commission in subsection (c), nominate eligible veterans  
15 for induction into the hall of fame by the commission and  
16 perform such other duties relating to the hall of fame as  
17 approved by the commission. Any Medal of Honor recipient shall  
18 be automatically inducted into the hall of fame.

19           (c) Oversight.--The commission shall develop guidelines for  
20 the halls of fame. The guidelines shall include, but not be  
21 limited to:

22                 (1) Eligibility criteria for qualified candidates.

23                 (2) Procedures for nomination of candidates and  
24 selection of inductees.

25                 (3) Ceremonies to officially honor the inductees.

26                 (4) Manner of recognizing or presenting the inductees in  
27 the halls of fame.

28                 (5) Maintenance of the halls of fame.

29                 (6) Duties of the advisory councils of the veterans'  
30 homes relating to the halls of fame.

1 (d) Documentation.--Each eligible veteran or his or her  
2 representative shall be responsible for obtaining the  
3 documentation necessary to establish his or her eligibility from  
4 the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or the National  
5 Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

6 (e) Centralized list.--The State Veterans' Commission shall  
7 keep a centralized list of all hall of fame inductees from all  
8 regional veterans' homes.

9 SUBCHAPTER B

10 DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

11 FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

12 Sec.

13 1711. Qualifications and status.

14 1712. Specific duties.

15 § 1711. Qualifications and status.

16 (a) Deputy Adjutants General.--In addition to such other  
17 Deputy Adjutants General as may be named in the department,  
18 there shall be a Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs,  
19 who shall perform the duties under section 1712 (relating to  
20 specific duties) and such other duties as the Adjutant General  
21 may assign.

22 (b) Appointment.--The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'  
23 Affairs shall be selected and appointed as other Deputy  
24 Adjutants General are selected and appointed. He shall be a  
25 veteran and an active member of at least one of the veterans'  
26 organizations listed under section 1702(b) (relating to State  
27 Veterans' Commission).

28 (c) Compensation.--The compensation of the Deputy Adjutant  
29 General for Veterans' Affairs shall be as established by law.

30 (d) Status.--The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'

1 Affairs shall be accorded all the rights, emoluments and  
2 privileges, except pay and allowances, of a brigadier general in  
3 the Pennsylvania Guard and shall be addressed as "General."

4 § 1712. Specific duties.

5 In addition to such other duties as may be provided by law or  
6 as assigned by the Adjutant General, the Deputy Adjutant General  
7 for Veterans' Affairs shall have the following specific duties:

8 (1) To recommend to the Adjutant General and the  
9 Governor, with the advice of the State Veterans' Commission,  
10 new legislation and amendments to existing statutes  
11 concerning veterans and their activities for consideration by  
12 the General Assembly.

13 (2) To cooperate with all Federal and State departments  
14 and agencies in the interest of veterans.

15 (3) To aid in filing and prosecuting claims of  
16 Pennsylvania's veterans and their dependents under Federal or  
17 State laws or regulations.

18 (4) To aid veterans in seeking employment or  
19 reemployment after their honorable discharge from the armed  
20 forces of the United States.

21 (5) To aid veterans requiring medical care in securing  
22 hospitalization provided by a Federal or State medical or  
23 care facility.

24 (6) To aid in the rehabilitation of injured, wounded or  
25 compensable veterans in educational institutions or  
26 vocational training institutions for which they may be  
27 eligible by law.

28 (7) To cooperate with and advise the Department of  
29 Education with respect to vocational training programs for  
30 veterans, particularly programs suited to casualties.

1           (8) To administer relief provided by the Commonwealth  
2 for veterans and their dependents.

3           (9) To administer the distribution under the direction  
4 of the Adjutant General of any compensation to veterans or  
5 their dependents that has been or may be granted by the  
6 Commonwealth.

7           (10) To investigate the work of other State agencies in  
8 administering laws affecting veterans and their dependents.

9           (11) To investigate, compile and maintain complete and  
10 accurate data concerning veterans of the armed forces of the  
11 United States and all State and municipal activities related  
12 thereto.

13           (12) To compile from the records transmitted from the  
14 various counties of this Commonwealth a record of the burial  
15 places in this Commonwealth of deceased veterans, including  
16 such information as the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'  
17 Affairs or his designee deems necessary and appropriate.

18           (13) To disseminate information concerning  
19 Pennsylvania's veterans and Pennsylvania's veterans' programs  
20 to veterans' organizations, to the public press and other  
21 media and to the general public.

22           (14) To biannually submit, through the Adjutant General,  
23 to the Governor a report of State activities on behalf of  
24 veterans.

25           (15) To serve as a clearinghouse for all problems or  
26 issues related to Pennsylvania's veterans and their  
27 dependents.

28           (16) To serve as Executive Secretary of the State  
29 Veterans' Commission.]

30 Section 5. Title 51 is amended by adding a chapter to read:



1 (b) Transfer provisions.--The following are transferred to  
2 the department:

3 (1) All bureaus, organizations and divisions in the  
4 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs responsible for  
5 the functions enumerated in this chapter.

6 (2) All personnel, allocations, appropriations,  
7 equipment, files, records, contracts, agreements, obligations  
8 and other materials that are used, employed or expended by  
9 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in connection  
10 with the functions transferred by this chapter to the  
11 Department of Veterans Affairs in the first instance and as  
12 if these contracts, agreements and obligations had been  
13 incurred or entered into by the Department of Veterans  
14 Affairs.

15 (c) Apportionment.--The personnel, appropriations, equipment  
16 and other items and material transferred by this section shall  
17 include an appropriate portion of the general administrative,  
18 overhead and supporting personnel, appropriations, equipment and  
19 other material of the agency and shall also include, where  
20 applicable, Federal grants and funds and other benefits from any  
21 Federal program.

22 (d) Status of employees.--All personnel transferred under  
23 this section shall retain any civil service employment status  
24 assigned to the personnel.

25 § 1803. Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

26 (a) Appointment.--The Governor shall nominate in accordance  
27 with the provisions of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and, by  
28 and with the advice and consent of a majority of the members  
29 elected to the Senate, appoint a Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

30 (b) Qualifications.--No person shall be nominated under

1 subsection (a) unless the person is a veteran.

2 (c) Term.--The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall serve a  
3 four-year term and until a successor shall have been appointed  
4 and qualified.

5 (d) Vacancy.--If the office of Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
6 shall become vacant, the Governor shall fill the vacancy in  
7 accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of  
8 Pennsylvania and subsection (a).

9 § 1804. Deputy secretaries.

10 The secretary shall appoint three deputy secretaries, who  
11 shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary, to assist the  
12 secretary in the administration and operation of the department  
13 as follows:

14 (1) Deputy Secretary for Veterans Homes.

15 (2) Deputy Secretary for Veterans Programs, Benefits and  
16 Claims.

17 (3) Deputy Secretary for Veterans Administration and  
18 Personnel.

19 § 1805. Bureaus and commissions.

20 The following bureaus and commissions are created within the  
21 department:

22 (1) The Bureau of Veterans Homes.

23 (2) The Bureau of Veterans Programs, Benefits and  
24 Claims.

25 (3) The Bureau of Administration and Personnel.

26 (4) The State Veterans Commission.

27 § 1806. Powers and duties of department.

28 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

29 (1) To administer the laws providing for the payment of  
30 pensions and relief, for the marking of graves of veterans

1 and for the selection, acquisition and maintenance of a State  
2 military cemetery.

3 (2) To investigate and compile data concerning veterans  
4 of the armed forces of the United States and all State and  
5 municipal activities relating to veterans.

6 (3) To administer veterans pensions and benefits under  
7 Chapter 77 (relating to veterans' pensions and benefits).

8 (4) To administer the Veterans' Emergency Assistance  
9 Program established under Chapter 85 (relating to veterans'  
10 emergency assistance).

11 (5) To administer the Educational Gratuity Program  
12 established under Chapter 87 (relating to Educational  
13 Gratuity Program).

14 (6) To administer the disabled veterans real estate tax  
15 exemption under Chapter 89 (relating to disabled veterans'  
16 real estate tax exemption).

17 (7) To recommend to the Governor new legislation and  
18 amendments to existing statutes concerning veterans and their  
19 activities for submission to the General Assembly.

20 (8) To cooperate with all departments and agencies of  
21 the Commonwealth in the interest of veterans welfare.

22 (9) To aid in filing and prosecuting all claims of the  
23 Commonwealth's veterans and dependents of veterans under  
24 Federal or State statutes.

25 (10) To aid in the employment and reemployment of all  
26 veterans honorably discharged from the armed forces of the  
27 United States or their auxiliaries.

28 (11) To aid in securing hospitalization for any veteran  
29 requiring medical care that may be provided by a Federal or  
30 State mental, medical or surgical facility specifically



1 provided for veterans or in any other public hospital.

2 (12) To aid in the rehabilitation of injured, wounded or  
3 compensable veterans or other veterans in educational  
4 institutions or vocational training institutions to which  
5 they may be eligible by statute.

6 (13) To cooperate with and advise the Department of  
7 Education with respect to the establishment of vocational  
8 training programs, particularly programs suited to war  
9 casualties, for either day or evening instruction, or both.

10 (14) To administer relief provided by the Commonwealth  
11 for veterans and dependents of veterans.

12 (15) To administer the distribution of any compensation  
13 to veterans or dependents of veterans that has been or may be  
14 granted by the Commonwealth.

15 (16) To investigate the work of other departments of the  
16 Commonwealth administering laws affecting veterans or  
17 veterans' orphans.

18 (17) To investigate, compile and maintain complete and  
19 accurate data concerning veterans of the armed forces of the  
20 United States and all State and municipal activities relating  
21 thereto.

22 (18) To compile from the records transmitted from the  
23 various counties of this Commonwealth, a record of the burial  
24 places within this Commonwealth of deceased service persons,  
25 including such information as the secretary deems necessary  
26 and appropriate.

27 (19) To establish an information center and to  
28 disseminate regularly to chapters, camps and posts of  
29 veterans organizations throughout this Commonwealth such  
30 information as the secretary shall determine and to transmit

1 to the public press and other media of public information  
2 information relative to veterans as may be of public  
3 interest.

4 (20) To submit biannually to the Governor a report of  
5 State activities on behalf of veterans.

6 (21) To perform other duties in connection with veterans  
7 that may be referred to the secretary by other departments or  
8 agencies of the Commonwealth, and to be a clearinghouse for  
9 all problems related to Pennsylvania veterans and their  
10 dependents.

11 (22) To appoint an executive secretary to the  
12 commission.

13 § 1807. Bureau of Veterans Homes.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Bureau of Veterans Homes is hereby  
15 established as a bureau within the department.

16 (b) Powers and duties.--In addition to the powers and duties  
17 conferred under this chapter, the Deputy Secretary for Veterans  
18 Homes shall, with the approval of the secretary, have the power  
19 and duty to:

20 (1) Oversee the bureau and make recommendations to the  
21 secretary regarding the maintenance and operation of veterans  
22 homes throughout this Commonwealth.

23 (2) Appoint a director to administer each veterans home.  
24 Each director shall be qualified and licensed in this  
25 Commonwealth as a nursing home administrator. Each director  
26 shall appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary  
27 and fix their salaries in conformity with the standards  
28 established by the Executive Board.

29 (3) Accept gifts, grants or payments for the use of each  
30 veterans home, except that the department may expend Federal

1 funds to the extent they are appropriated to the department  
2 by the General Assembly.

3 (4) Establish a schedule of fees to be charged to  
4 residents. The fees shall be based on the level of service or  
5 care required and the ability of the resident to pay. The  
6 department shall establish the level of service to be  
7 provided in accordance with the Federal Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs' standards of nursing and domiciliary care.

9 (c) Advisory councils for veterans homes.--

10 (1) There is hereby established an advisory council for  
11 each veterans home operated by the department. Each advisory  
12 council shall consist of 15 members and the secretary, who  
13 shall serve ex officio. Twelve of the members shall be  
14 appointed by the Governor from a list of nominations  
15 submitted to the secretary by the Pennsylvania War Veterans  
16 Council. The president pro tempore of the Senate and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint  
18 one member from their respective legislative chamber to serve  
19 on each council. The remaining member on the advisory council  
20 shall be selected by the residents of the veterans homes.

21 (2) Each member of the councils appointed from the  
22 General Assembly shall serve for the duration of that session  
23 of the General Assembly. The eight members appointed by the  
24 Governor shall serve a term of three years, provided that the  
25 initial eight members selected by the Governor shall serve as  
26 follows: three members for one year, three members for two  
27 years and two members for three years as designated by the  
28 Governor. Each council shall organize as soon as possible and  
29 shall annually elect a president, vice president and  
30 secretary.

1           (3) The members appointed by the Governor may be removed  
2 by the Governor for cause.

3           (4) Six members of the council shall constitute a quorum  
4 for the purpose of conducting the business of the council.  
5 Each council shall meet at least quarterly and at other times  
6 at the call of the president.

7           (5) Members of each council shall receive no  
8 compensation for their services but shall receive  
9 reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses for  
10 attendance at meetings.

11           (6) Each council shall advise the secretary as to the  
12 management, operation and adequacy of facilities and services  
13 at their respective homes.

14 § 1808. Bureau of Veterans Programs, Benefits and Claims.

15           (a) Establishment.--The Bureau of Veterans Programs,  
16 Benefits and Claims is hereby established as a bureau within the  
17 department. The bureau shall administer all veterans programs,  
18 except veterans homes, providing for the administration of all  
19 benefits granted to veterans under the laws of this  
20 Commonwealth.

21           (b) Powers and duties.--In addition to the powers and duties  
22 conferred under this chapter, the Deputy Secretary for Veterans  
23 Programs, Benefits and Claims shall have the power and duty to:

24           (1) Oversee the Bureau of Veterans Programs, Benefits  
25 and Claims and assist veterans and their dependents in making  
26 claims under Federal or State law.

27           (2) Make recommendations to the secretary regarding the  
28 administration of veterans programs of the Commonwealth.

29           (3) Oversee the Scotland School for Veterans' Children.

30 § 1809. Bureau of Administration and Personnel.

1     (a) Establishment.--The Bureau of Administration and  
2 Personnel is hereby established as a bureau within the  
3 department. The bureau shall be responsible for all matters  
4 relating to the administration of the department.

5     (b) Powers and duties.--The Deputy Secretary for  
6 Administration and Personnel shall have the following powers and  
7 duties:

8         (1) Oversee the Bureau of Administration and Personnel.

9         (2) Oversee department personnel.

10        (3) Administer the day-to-day operations of the  
11 department.

12        (4) Manage the fiscal affairs of the department.

13        (5) Formulate a proposed budget, which shall be approved  
14 by the secretary, for submission to the Governor.

15        (6) Make recommendations to the secretary regarding the  
16 operations of the department.

17 § 1810. State Veterans Commission.

18     (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established within the  
19 department an advisory commission to be known as the State  
20 Veterans Commission.

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

22         (1) The secretary, ex officio or his designee.

23         (2) The Adjutant General or his designee.

24         (3) The State commander, commandant or head, or his  
25 designee, of each of the following named veterans  
26 organizations:

27             (i) The American Legion.

28             (ii) AMVETS.

29             (iii) Blinded Veterans Association.

30             (iv) Catholic War Veterans of the United States of

1 America.

2 (v) Disabled American Veterans.

3 (vi) Jewish War Veterans of the United States of  
4 America.

5 (vii) Marine Corps League.

6 (viii) Military Order of the Purple Heart.

7 (ix) State Association of County Directors of  
8 Veterans Affairs.

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

10 (xi) Veterans of World War I of the United States of  
11 America, Inc.

12 (xii) Italian-American War Veterans of the United  
13 States.

14 (xiii) The Vietnam Veterans of America.

15 (xiv) American Ex-Prisoners of War.

16 (xv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America.

17 (4) Four members at large appointed by the Governor from  
18 a list provided by the Adjutant General, each of whom shall  
19 be a veteran and a member in good and regular standing of a  
20 Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized  
21 national veterans organization active in this Commonwealth.  
22 At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least  
23 one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam era. Members at  
24 large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor  
25 has been appointed.

26 (5) The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the  
27 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign  
28 Wars (VFW) and the Executive Director of AMVETS as nonvoting  
29 members.

30 (c) Officers.--The commission shall annually elect a

1 chairman and vice chairman at the first meeting of the  
2 commission after October 1. The Deputy Adjutant General for  
3 Veterans Affairs shall serve as the executive secretary to the  
4 commission.

5 (d) Compensation and expenses.--Members of the commission  
6 shall receive no compensation for their services but shall  
7 receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses  
8 for attendance at meetings.

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

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

17 (g) General powers and duties.--The commission shall advise  
18 the secretary and the department on all matters pertaining to  
19 the status, welfare, benefits, employment and support of  
20 veterans and veterans programs in this Commonwealth and shall  
21 perform such other functions as are provided by law.

22 (h) Specific powers and duties.--The commission shall have  
23 the following powers and duties:

24 (1) Advise the secretary upon such matters as the  
25 secretary may bring before it.

26 (2) Investigate the work of the department and make  
27 recommendations to it regarding the department's  
28 administration of the laws providing for the payment of  
29 pensions and relief, for the marking of graves of veterans  
30 and for the selection, acquisition and maintenance of a State

1 military cemetery.

2 (3) Investigate and recommend to the secretary  
3 legislation for submission to the General Assembly concerning  
4 veterans and their activities.

5 § 1811. Veterans home hall of fame.

6 (a) General rule.--Each veterans home operated by the  
7 Commonwealth shall establish and dedicate a hall of fame to  
8 recognize and honor the military achievements of outstanding  
9 veterans who have completed honorable, active duty military  
10 service and who reside or resided in the geographic region  
11 served by the veterans home. The area or space in the veterans  
12 home dedicated to the hall of fame may be used for other  
13 purposes.

14 (b) Selection of inductees.--The advisory council for each  
15 veterans home shall, consistent with the guidelines established  
16 by the commission in subsection (c), nominate eligible veterans  
17 for induction into the hall of fame by the commission and  
18 perform such other duties relating to the hall of fame as  
19 approved by the commission. Any Medal of Honor recipient shall  
20 be automatically inducted into the hall of fame.

21 (c) Oversight.--The commission shall develop guidelines for  
22 the halls of fame. The guidelines shall include, but not be  
23 limited to:

24 (1) Eligibility criteria for qualified candidates.

25 (2) Procedures for nomination of candidates and  
26 selection of inductees.

27 (3) Ceremonies to officially honor the inductees.

28 (4) Manner of recognizing or presenting the inductees in  
29 the halls of fame.

30 (5) Maintenance of the halls of fame.



1           (6) Duties of the advisory councils of the veterans  
2           homes relating to the halls of fame.

3           (d) Documentation.--Each eligible veteran or his or her  
4           representative shall be responsible for obtaining the  
5           documentation necessary to establish his or her eligibility from  
6           the National Archives in Washington, DC, or the National  
7           Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

8           (e) Centralized list.--The State Veterans Commission shall  
9           keep a centralized list of all hall of fame inductees from all  
10           regional veterans homes.

11           § 1812. Application of Administrative Code.

12           Except as otherwise provided by law, the department shall be  
13           subject to all the provisions of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.  
14           177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, which  
15           apply generally to administrative departments.

16           Section 6. Sections 3201, 7701, 7702, 8501, 8504(b), 8505,  
17           8701, 8702(a) and (b), 8703(b) and (c), 8901, 8902, 8903, 8904,  
18           8905, 9102(a) and (b) and 9301(a) of Title 51 are amended to  
19           read:

20           § 3201. Definitions.

21           The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
22           shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
23           context clearly indicates otherwise:

24           "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
25           Agency.

26           "Approved institution of higher learning." An educational  
27           institution offering a post-secondary program of education  
28           located in this Commonwealth and approved by the Pennsylvania  
29           Higher Education Assistance Agency.

30           "Approved program of education." A degree- or certificate-

1 granting curriculum or course of study to be pursued on a full-  
2 time or part-time basis or its equivalent as determined by the  
3 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, at an approved  
4 institution of higher learning.

5 "Department." The Department of Military [and Veterans]  
6 Affairs of the Commonwealth.

7 "Eligible member." A member of the Pennsylvania National  
8 Guard who meets the criteria specified in section 3202 (relating  
9 to eligibility) and who has been awarded a certificate of  
10 eligibility under section 3203 (relating to certification of  
11 eligibility).

12 "Full-time student." A student enrolled in an approved  
13 institution of higher learning pursuing an approved program of  
14 education equal to or greater than 15 credit hours or its  
15 equivalent recognized by the Pennsylvania Higher Education  
16 Assistance Agency as a full-time course of study.

17 "Part-time student." A student enrolled in an approved  
18 institution of higher education pursuing an approved program of  
19 education of less than 15 credit hours or its equivalent  
20 recognized by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
21 Agency as a part-time course of study.

22 "Program." The Educational Assistance Program established in  
23 this chapter.

24 "Qualified resident." An individual who has been a bona fide  
25 resident of this Commonwealth prior to the time an application  
26 for a grant is made. The Pennsylvania Higher Education  
27 Assistance Agency shall make the final decision on whether an  
28 applicant is a qualified resident.

29 § 7701. Blind veteran's pension.

30 (a) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "blind

1 veteran" shall mean any person who served in the military or  
2 naval forces of the United States, or any woman's organization  
3 officially connected therewith, at any time, and who gave the  
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as his or her place of residence  
5 at the time of entering the military or naval forces of the  
6 United States, and who while performing duties connected with  
7 such service suffered an injury or incurred a disease which  
8 resulted in blindness to the extent that he or she has 3/60 or  
9 10/200 or less normal vision. The term "blind veteran" shall not  
10 include any person separated from the military or naval forces  
11 of the United States, or any woman's organization officially  
12 connected therewith, under other than honorable conditions.

13 (b) Amount and eligibility.--In addition to any other  
14 assistance provided by the Commonwealth and in addition to any  
15 compensation provided by the Federal Government, every blind  
16 veteran shall be paid a pension of \$150 per month. Applications  
17 for such pensions shall be made to and in the form prescribed by  
18 the department. The [Adjutant General] department shall have the  
19 power[,] and it shall be [his] the department's duty to  
20 determine the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and  
21 [his] the department's decision in the matter shall be final.

22 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
23 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
24 subsection:

25 "Department." The Department of Veterans Affairs of the  
26 Commonwealth established under section 1802 (relating to  
27 Department of Veterans Affairs).

28 § 7702. Paralyzed veteran's pension.

29 (a) Amount and eligibility.--In addition to any other  
30 assistance provided by the Commonwealth and in addition to any

1 compensation provided by the Federal Government, every paralyzed  
2 veteran shall be paid a pension of \$150 per month. Applications  
3 for the pensions shall be made to and in the form prescribed by  
4 the department. The [Adjutant General] department shall  
5 determine the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and  
6 [his] the department's decision in the matter shall be final.

7 (b) Regulations.--The [Adjutant General] department shall  
8 promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to implement  
9 this program.

10 (c) Definition.--As used in this section [the term  
11 "paralyzed veteran" means any], the following words and phrases  
12 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

13 "Department." The Department of Veterans Affairs of the  
14 Commonwealth established under section 1802 (relating to  
15 Department of Veterans Affairs).

16 "Paralyzed veteran." A person who served in the military or  
17 naval forces of the United States, or any woman's organization  
18 officially connected therewith, and who gave this Commonwealth  
19 as his or her place of residence at the time of entering the  
20 military or naval forces of the United States and who, while  
21 performing duties connected with such service, suffered an  
22 injury or incurred a disease which resulted in the loss or loss  
23 of use of two or more extremities. The term does not include any  
24 person separated from the military or naval forces of the United  
25 States, or any woman's organization officially connected  
26 therewith, under other than honorable conditions.

27 § 8501. Definitions.

28 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
29 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
30 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 ["Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established  
2 under section 1702 (relating to State Veterans' Commission).]

3 "Department." The Department of Veterans Affairs of the  
4 Commonwealth established under section 1802 (relating to  
5 Department of Veterans Affairs).

6 "Eligible veteran." A former member of the military or naval  
7 service of the United States, or women's organization officially  
8 connected therewith, who:

9 (1) served during a period of war or armed conflict and  
10 was honorably discharged from the armed forces;

11 (2) died in service or was killed in action during a  
12 period of war or armed conflict; or

13 (3) as a result of peacetime hostile fire or terrorist  
14 attack as determined by the department, was killed or  
15 suffered a service-connected disability as certified by the  
16 United States Veterans' Administration and, if surviving, was  
17 honorably discharged from the armed forces.

18 "Emergency." A sudden or unexpected loss of income due to  
19 sickness, disability, unemployment or other cause beyond the  
20 control of the applicant for emergency assistance.

21 "Surviving dependents." The following are considered  
22 surviving dependents of a deceased eligible veteran:

23 (1) The unmarried surviving spouse of the deceased  
24 eligible veteran.

25 (2) If there is no unmarried spouse of a deceased  
26 eligible veteran, the unmarried minor children, children who,  
27 before attaining the age of 18, became permanently incapable  
28 of self-support, and children who are less than 23 years of  
29 age and are pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an  
30 approved educational institution, provided they were, on the

1 death of the eligible veteran, dependent on the eligible  
2 veteran for more than 50% of the cost of their support.

3 (3) If the eligible veteran is not survived by a spouse  
4 or dependent children, the surviving parents of the eligible  
5 veteran, provided that, on the date of the eligible veteran's  
6 death, they were dependent on the veteran for more than 50%  
7 of the cost of their support.

8 § 8504. Amounts of assistance.

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) Standards.--Subject to the limitation set forth in  
11 subsection (a), the [State Veterans' Commission shall recommend]  
12 department shall establish uniform and equitable standards for  
13 the amounts of veterans' emergency assistance.

14 \* \* \*

15 § 8505. Appeals.

16 Any person aggrieved by a decision denying payment of  
17 veterans' emergency assistance may appeal to the [Adjutant  
18 General] department under provisions of Title 2 (relating to  
19 administrative law and procedure).

20 § 8701. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
22 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
23 context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 ["Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established  
25 under section 1702 (relating to State Veterans' Commission).]

26 "Department." The Department of Veterans Affairs of the  
27 Commonwealth established under section 1802 (relating to  
28 Department of Veterans Affairs).

29 "Educational institution." Any college or university of the  
30 State System of Higher Education, a State-aided educational or

1 training institution of a secondary or college grade or other  
2 institution of higher education, a business school, a trade  
3 school, a hospital school providing training for nurses, an  
4 institution providing courses in beauty culture, art, radio or  
5 undertaking or embalming, or such other educational training  
6 within this Commonwealth approved by the commission.

7 "Eligible disabled or deceased veteran." A person who served  
8 in the military or naval forces of the United States, or a  
9 women's organization officially connected therewith, who:

10 (1) was killed in action or died as a result of wounds  
11 incurred during a period of war or armed conflict or as a  
12 result of hostile fire or terrorist attack during peacetime  
13 (as determined by the Department of Military Affairs);

14 (2) died in service during a period of war or armed  
15 conflict;

16 (3) was honorably discharged from the military or naval  
17 forces of the United States and certified by the United  
18 States Veterans' Administration as a 100% disabled veteran as  
19 a result of service during a period of war or armed conflict  
20 or as a result of hostile fire or terrorist attack (as  
21 determined by the Department of Military Affairs) during  
22 peacetime; or

23 (4) was honorably discharged from the military or naval  
24 forces of the United States and died as a result of a  
25 service-connected disability (as certified by the United  
26 States Veterans' Administration) incurred during a period of  
27 war or armed conflict or as a result of peacetime hostile  
28 fire or terrorist attack (as determined by the Department of  
29 Military Affairs).

30 "Qualified child." Any child meeting the requirements of

1 section 8703 (relating to eligibility and qualification  
2 requirements).

3 § 8702. Educational gratuity payments.

4 (a) General rule.--The [commission] department shall make  
5 educational gratuity payments not exceeding \$500 per term or  
6 semester per qualified child to each approved educational  
7 institution upon submission by that approved educational  
8 institution of proof that bills have been incurred or contracted  
9 covering matriculation fees and other necessary fees, tuition,  
10 board, room rent, books and supplies for a qualified child in a  
11 definite amount for the school year.

12 (b) Records.--The [commission] department shall attach the  
13 proof submitted under subsection (a) to the requisition prepared  
14 for payment out of appropriations made by the General Assembly  
15 for purposes of the educational gratuity payments.

16 \* \* \*

17 § 8703. Eligibility and qualification requirements.

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) Qualification determination.--The [commission]  
20 department shall determine qualified applicants based on the  
21 following requirements:

22 (1) The applicant meets the requirements of subsection

23 (a).

24 (2) The applicant is attending an approved educational  
25 institution.

26 (3) The applicant demonstrates a financial need for the  
27 educational gratuity.

28 (c) Appeal.--Any aggrieved applicant may appeal the decision  
29 of the [commission to the Adjutant General] department under the  
30 provisions of Title 2 (relating to administrative law and



1 procedure).

2 § 8901. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Blind." Visual acuity of three-sixtieths or ten two-  
7 hundredths, or less normal vision.

8 ["Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established  
9 under section 1702 (relating to State Veterans' Commission).]

10 "Department." The Department of Veterans Affairs of the  
11 Commonwealth established under section 1802 (relating to  
12 Department of Veterans Affairs).

13 "Paraplegic." The bilateral paralysis of the upper or lower  
14 extremities of the body.

15 § 8902. Exemption.

16 (a) General rule.--Any resident of this Commonwealth shall  
17 be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon  
18 any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied  
19 by that person as a principal dwelling, if all of the following  
20 requirements are met:

21 (1) That person has been honorably discharged or  
22 released under honorable circumstances from the armed forces  
23 of the United States for service in any war or armed conflict  
24 in which this nation was engaged.

25 (2) As a result of such military service, that person is  
26 blind or paraplegic or has sustained the loss of two or more  
27 limbs, or has a service-connected disability declared by the  
28 United States Veterans' Administration or its successors to  
29 be a total or 100% permanent disability.

30 (3) The dwelling is owned by that person solely, with

1 his or her spouse or as an estate by the entireties.

2 (4) The need for the exemption from the payment of real  
3 estate taxes has been determined by the [State Veterans'  
4 Commission] department in compliance with the requirements of  
5 this chapter.

6 (b) Extension of exemption.--The exemption provided in  
7 subsection (a) shall be extended to the unmarried surviving  
8 spouse upon the death of the eligible veteran provided that the  
9 [State Veterans' Commission] department determines that such  
10 spouse is in need of an exemption.

11 § 8903. Duty of board.

12 When the conditions specified in section 8902 (relating to  
13 exemption) are determined to exist by the board for the  
14 assessment and revision of taxes, or by a similar board for the  
15 assessment of taxes, and upon the receipt by that board of a  
16 certification of need for the tax exemption from the  
17 [commission] department, the board shall grant the tax exemption  
18 prescribed by section 8902. Notification of the granting of the  
19 tax exemption by the board shall be forwarded to the person who  
20 has received the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes  
21 and to the tax-levying bodies and tax collectors of all  
22 political subdivisions imposing taxes upon the dwelling of the  
23 person granted the exemption from payment of real estate taxes.

24 § 8904. Duty of [commission] department.

25 The [commission] department shall:

26 (1) Fix uniform and equitable standards for determining  
27 the need for exemption from the payment of real estate taxes  
28 granted by this act. In fixing such uniform and equitable  
29 standards, the [commission] department shall apply a  
30 rebuttable presumption that an applicant with annual income

1 of \$75,000 or less has a need for the exemption. Beginning on  
2 January 1, 2009, and every two years thereafter, the  
3 [commission] department shall adjust the annual income level  
4 qualifying for the rebuttable presumption of need by an  
5 amount equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index in the  
6 preceding two years. The [commission] department shall  
7 publish the adjusted annual income level qualifying for the  
8 rebuttable presumption of need as a notice in the  
9 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

10 (2) After submission of proof of need by the applicant  
11 for the exemption from payment of real estate taxes,  
12 determine the need of the applicant.

13 (3) Review at least once every five years all  
14 determinations of need for exemptions from the payment of  
15 real estate taxes which have been granted in order to  
16 determine any changes in the economic status of applicants  
17 bearing upon the question of need.

18 (4) Certify the name and address and the need for  
19 exemption from payment of real estate taxes, or termination  
20 of such need, to the board for the assessment and revision of  
21 taxes, or similar board for the assessment of taxes, having  
22 jurisdiction of the assessment of the real property owned  
23 solely or as an estate by the entirety and occupied as a  
24 residence by the person seeking the tax exemption granted by  
25 this chapter.

26 § 8905. Appeals.

27 Any applicant aggrieved by a determination of the  
28 [commission] department may appeal that determination [to the  
29 Adjutant General] under the provisions of Title 2 (relating to  
30 administrative law and procedure).

1 § 9102. Affidavits and acknowledgments by designated officers.

2 (a) Designation of certain officers authorized.--Each local  
3 organization of The American Red Cross, The American Legion,  
4 Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc., Veterans of Foreign  
5 Wars of the United States, Disabled American Veterans, United  
6 Spanish War Veterans, Regular Veterans Association, Director of  
7 Veterans Affairs, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, the  
8 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Italian American War  
9 Veterans of the United States, Incorporated, and such other  
10 similar organizations now or hereafter accredited or recognized  
11 by the United States Veterans Administration, which supplies  
12 such aid and assistance to veterans or their dependents, and  
13 which gratuitously prepares forms for veterans and their  
14 dependents in connection with their affairs as such before the  
15 United States, any agency thereof, or the Commonwealth, any  
16 agency or political subdivision thereof, is hereby authorized to  
17 designate one of its officers to take affidavits or  
18 acknowledgments to such forms, as may be required by rule,  
19 regulation or otherwise by the United States, any agency  
20 thereof, or the Commonwealth, any agency or political  
21 subdivision thereof, in the administration of the affairs of  
22 veterans and their dependents. For the same purposes the  
23 Adjutant General is authorized to designate one or more persons  
24 from the Department of Military Affairs, the Secretary of  
25 Veterans Affairs is authorized to designate one or more persons  
26 from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the State Director  
27 of Selective Service is authorized to designate one or more  
28 persons from the Pennsylvania Selective Service System.

29 (b) Appointment, certification and authority.--When any such  
30 officer or person is so designated, his name, address and

1 official position shall be furnished to the Secretary of the  
2 Commonwealth, in writing, signed by such designated officer or  
3 person, accompanied by a certificate of his designation by the  
4 proper authority of such organization, or of the Adjutant  
5 General, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the State Director  
6 of Selective Service, as the case may be. Upon receipt of such  
7 writing and certificate in form as herein provided the Secretary  
8 of the Commonwealth, with the approval of the Governor, shall  
9 issue under his hand and seal of his office a certificate of  
10 appointment to such designated officer or person which shall  
11 authorize him to take affidavits or acknowledgments of veterans  
12 and their dependents in connection with their affairs as such  
13 before the United States, any agency thereof, or the  
14 Commonwealth, any agency or political subdivision thereof. Such  
15 authorized officer or person shall exercise the authority  
16 conferred under the provisions of this section at the pleasure  
17 of the Governor. Each certificate issued as aforesaid by the  
18 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be numbered in the order of  
19 date issued, and the Secretary of the Commonwealth is hereby  
20 authorized to certify such appointment whenever required.

21 \* \* \*

22 § 9301. Reports of annual conventions.

23 (a) Printing and distribution by Commonwealth.--Whenever the  
24 department commanders of the Grand Army of the Republic, the  
25 United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the  
26 United States, the American Legion, the Disabled American  
27 Veterans of the World War, the Veterans of World War I of the  
28 U.S.A., Inc., the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS),  
29 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Jewish War Veterans,  
30 Catholic War Veterans, Inc., The Society of the 28th Division,

1 A.E.F., the Marine Corps League and the Italian American War  
2 Veterans of the United States, Incorporated, shall report to the  
3 Department of [Property and Supplies] General Services the  
4 proceedings of the annual encampment or conventions of their  
5 respective departments, with such general and special orders and  
6 circulars and other data which may form a part of said  
7 proceedings, then the said proceedings, so reported, shall be  
8 considered Commonwealth records, and under the direction of the  
9 Department of [Property and Supplies] General Services, shall be  
10 printed and bound, and a printed and bound copy thereof shall be  
11 sent to each post or detachment in this Commonwealth of the  
12 organization of whose proceedings the same is a report.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 7. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law,  
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be subject to all the  
16 provisions of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known  
17 as The Administrative Code of 1929, which apply generally to  
18 administrative departments.

19 Section 8. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
20 is designated as the Department of Military Affairs. Contracts,  
21 deeds and official actions by the department shall not be  
22 affected by the use of the designation by the department as the  
23 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The department may  
24 continue to use the name Department of Military and Veterans  
25 Affairs on stationery or any official documents until existing  
26 supplies are exhausted. The department may substitute the title  
27 Department of Military Affairs for the Department of Military  
28 and Veterans Affairs on its documents and materials on such  
29 schedule as it deems appropriate.

30 Section 20. This act shall take effect in 60 days.