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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1144 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, SMITH, TEPLITZ, WASHINGTON, BREWSTER,  
FERLO, KASUNIC, HUGHES, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, FONTANA,  
FARNESE, RAFFERTY, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, BLAKE AND YUDICHAK,  
JANUARY 13, 2014

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JANUARY 13, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Veterans Traumatic  
3 Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military  
4 Sexual Trauma Public Service Announcement Fund and the  
5 Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress  
6 Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma Public Service  
7 Announcement Program; and imposing duties on the Department  
8 of Military and Veterans Affairs.

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

11 Section 1. Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
12 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

13 § 7320. Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress  
14 Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma Public Service  
15 Announcement Fund.

16 (a) Establishment of fund.--In order to carry out the  
17 purposes of section 315.8 of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,  
18 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, there is  
19 established in the State Treasury a restricted revenue account

1 within the General Fund which shall be known as the Veterans  
2 Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and  
3 Military Sexual Trauma Public Service Announcement Fund.

4 (b) Administration of program.--

5 (1) The department shall administer the program  
6 established in paragraph (2) and shall accept voluntary  
7 contributions from persons for the fund. The department may  
8 consult with any governmental or nongovernmental organization  
9 as is necessary to complete the requirements under this  
10 section but shall not enter into an agreement or contract  
11 with any such organization for the staffing functions of the  
12 program.

13 (2) The Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic  
14 Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma Public Service  
15 Announcement Program is established. Contributions received  
16 for the fund shall be used by the department to provide  
17 public service announcements informing veterans of the  
18 services and benefits of Federal and State laws, including  
19 services and benefits available to veterans suffering from  
20 traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder or  
21 military sexual trauma.

22 (c) Moneys received.--All moneys received from the voluntary  
23 contribution system established in section 315.12 of the Tax  
24 Reform Code of 1971 shall be deposited into the fund.

25 (d) Other voluntary contributions.--In addition to the  
26 voluntary contribution system established in section 315.12 of  
27 the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the Commonwealth is also authorized  
28 to accept other voluntary contributions and electronic donations  
29 to the fund. All other voluntary contributions and electronic  
30 donations shall be deposited into the fund. All agencies of

1 State, county and municipal government within this Commonwealth  
2 may include a brief description of the program and the  
3 electronic and mailing address to make donations to this fund  
4 in their publications, mailings and communications.

5 (e) Future appropriations.--The General Assembly may  
6 appropriate funds for transfer to the fund for the purposes of  
7 this section.

8 (f) Use of fund money.--The moneys contained in the fund are  
9 hereby appropriated on a continuing basis to the department for  
10 the exclusive use of carrying out the purposes of this section.

11 (g) Expiration.--This section shall expire January 1, 2019.

12 (h) Reporting.--Beginning on or before July 30, 2015, and  
13 every year thereafter for the length of the program, the  
14 department shall submit a report to the chairman and minority  
15 chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the  
16 chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee  
17 of the House of Representatives, the chairman and minority  
18 chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
19 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman  
20 of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of  
21 the House of Representatives detailing the total amount of money  
22 raised and expended in the prior year. The report shall also set  
23 forth any participation by a governmental or nongovernmental  
24 organization utilized in the furtherance of the program.

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