
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2022 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, MURT, RYAN, SAPPEY, READSHAW, KINSEY,
BOBACK, BERNSTINE, MARKOSEK, SAINATO, SOLOMON AND GILLEN,
JANUARY 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 17, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs,
3 establishing the Veterans' Peer Outreach and Support Network
4 Program.

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

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

9 § 713. Veterans' Peer Outreach and Support Network Program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The Veterans' Peer Outreach and Support
11 Network Program is established.

12 (b) Participants.--The program may include State agencies,
13 county directors of veterans' affairs, veterans service
14 organizations, the healthcare provider community and nonprofit
15 organizations.

16 (c) Purpose.--The program shall:

17 (1) Improve the health and well-being of veterans and
18 the families of veterans through community engagement and

1 consistent network communication.

2 (2) Organize participants under subsection (b) to
3 cooperate with network partners to provide for proactive
4 solutions to address the problems faced by veterans when
5 transitioning from military service to civilian life.

6 (d) Requirements.--Program requirements shall be determined
7 by the department and information shall be disseminated to the
8 greatest extent possible on how to best navigate and utilize
9 available resources to improve the health and well-being of
10 veterans and the families of veterans.

11 (e) Duties of department.--The department shall develop the
12 program, which shall contain a mission statement that shall be
13 clearly communicated to network partners and participants under
14 subsection (b). The department shall:

15 (1) Coordinate with other State agencies, county
16 directors of veterans' affairs, veterans service
17 organizations, the healthcare provider community and non-
18 profit organizations, identified by the department, that
19 provide programs and services to veterans and the families of
20 veterans.

21 (2) Conduct outreach seminars, town halls and similar
22 events for participants.

23 (3) Provide information regarding programs, resources
24 and services available to be utilized by family and friends
25 of veterans who can regularly interact and offer peer
26 outreach and support for veterans.

27 (4) Coordinate with county directors of veterans'
28 affairs by conducting symposiums throughout this Commonwealth
29 to provide one-on-one consultations to veterans transitioning
30 to civilian life.

1 (5) Utilize the address found on the copy of the
2 veteran's DD214 forwarded to the department by the United
3 States Department of Defense to contact the veteran to be
4 scheduled to attend a symposium.

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