

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, GILLEN, GABLER AND POLINCHOCK, JANUARY 17, 2020

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 1, 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~~ § 714. Veterans' Peer Outreach and Support Network <--
10 Program.

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

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

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

1 (1) Improve the health and well-being of veterans and
2 the families of veterans through community engagement and
3 consistent network communication.

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

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

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

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

23 (2) Conduct outreach seminars, town halls and similar <--
24 events for participants. PROVIDE A WELCOME HOME TO <--
25 PENNSYLVANIA PACKET TO PARTICIPANTS.

26 (3) Provide information regarding programs, resources, <--
27 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS and
28 services available to be utilized by family and friends of
29 veterans who can regularly interact and offer peer outreach <--
30 and support for veterans.

1 (4) Coordinate with county directors of veterans'
2 affairs by ~~conducting symposiums throughout this Commonwealth~~ <--
3 ~~to provide one on one consultations to veterans transitioning~~
4 ~~to civilian life~~ PROVIDING INFORMATION OF VETERANS WHO <--
5 REQUEST SUPPORT THROUGH THE VETERANS' REGISTRY.

6 (5) Utilize the address found on the copy of the
7 veteran's DD214 forwarded to the department by the United
8 States Department of Defense to contact the veteran to ~~be~~ <--
9 ~~scheduled to attend a symposium~~ SEND OUT THE WELCOME PACKET <--
10 TO PARTICIPATE AND JOIN OUR VETERAN NETWORKS.

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