

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 170 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY IOVINO, REGAN, HUGHES, L. WILLIAMS, FONTANA, BLAKE, VOGEL, KEARNEY, BAKER, PHILLIPS-HILL, COLLETT, MUTH, SANTARSIERO, MASTRIANO, FOLMER, COSTA, SCHWANK, SABATINA, MENSCH AND YUDICHAK, JUNE 17, 2019

SENATOR REGAN, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, JUNE 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a task force on services for veterans, including
2 the coordination of services in this Commonwealth among
3 Federal, State, local and nonprofit programs aimed at serving
4 veterans, and directing the Joint State Government Commission
5 to establish an advisory committee to the task force and
6 conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of services for
7 veterans.

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to the fourth largest
9 veteran population in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The Federal dollars expended per Pennsylvania
11 veteran ranks 45th in the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, The disparity nationally in expenditures has led to
13 the establishment of thousands of veterans' service entities;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth ranks within the top five states
16 in the number of nonprofit veteran organizations; and

17 WHEREAS, The sheer number of veterans' service organizations
18 across this Commonwealth has made the coordination of services,
19 cooperation and oversight difficult; and

1 WHEREAS, Navigating and availing services may be especially  
2 difficult for the veteran; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2014 needs assessment from the Department of  
4 Military and Veterans Affairs found that "challenges in meeting  
5 veterans' needs lay not with what is available, but how it is  
6 available" and that the "flow of information to veterans about  
7 available services, benefits, and programs is overwhelming in  
8 both volume and presentation"; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate establish a task force on services  
10 for veterans, including the coordination of services in this  
11 Commonwealth among Federal, State, local and nonprofit programs  
12 aimed at serving veterans; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the task force be comprised of the following:

14 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs  
15 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate.

16 (2) ~~One member~~ TWO MEMBERS of the Senate appointed by <--  
17 the President pro tempore of the Senate.

18 (3) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
19 Leader of the Senate;

20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission  
22 establish an advisory committee to the task force consisting of  
23 the following members:

24 (1) The Adjutant General of the Department of Military  
25 and Veterans Affairs or a designee.

26 (2) The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth or a  
27 designee.

28 (3) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

29 (4) The Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs or a  
30 designee.

1 (5) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or a designee.

2 (6) The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth or a  
3 designee.

4 (7) The chair of the Pennsylvania State Veterans'  
5 Commission.

6 (8) A representative from a veterans' service  
7 organization.

8 (9) The executive director of the Veterans Leadership  
9 Program of Western Pennsylvania.

10 (10) The executive director of a multiservice center for  
11 veterans.

12 (11) An individual who works for the Clearinghouse for  
13 Military Family Readiness at The Pennsylvania State  
14 University.

15 (12) An individual who directs research at an institute  
16 for veterans and military families.

17 (13) An individual who serves as the director of  
18 veterans' services for a county in this Commonwealth.

19 (14) An individual who serves as the director of a human  
20 services department for a county in this Commonwealth.

21 (15) An individual who is employed by the United States  
22 Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 (16) An individual who is a professional provider of  
24 community care with an expertise in veterans' issues.

25 (17) An individual who is an expert on veterans with  
26 disabilities.

27 (18) Two male individuals who served in any branch of  
28 the United States Armed Forces after the events of September  
29 11, 2001, and are residents of this Commonwealth.

30 (19) Two female individuals who served in any branch of

1 the United States Armed Forces after the events of September  
2 11, 2001, and are residents of this Commonwealth;  
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
5 with the advisory committee, conduct a comprehensive review and  
6 analysis of laws, regulations, policies and procedures of this  
7 Commonwealth and other states regarding the coordination of  
8 services between Federal, State, local and nonprofit programs  
9 aimed at serving veterans; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the review and analysis include the  
11 identification of the following:

12 (1) Veterans' service networks and collaborative  
13 organizations operating in this Commonwealth.

14 (2) Models currently being utilized for  
15 interorganizational communication within the veterans'  
16 service community in this Commonwealth and other states.

17 (3) Technological platforms currently being used to  
18 collect, store and exchange data among the veterans' service  
19 community in this Commonwealth and other states.

20 (4) National, state or local models that support  
21 comprehensive access and navigation of veterans' services  
22 being utilized.

23 (5) Any other areas recommended by the task force  
24 relating to the coordination of services among the veterans'  
25 service organizations;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the task force recommend changes, when  
28 necessary, to State laws, regulations, practices and procedures  
29 relating to improved coordination of services in this  
30 Commonwealth among Federal, State, local and nonprofit programs

1 aimed at serving veterans; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
3 report of the task force's findings and recommendations to the  
4 Senate within one year of the establishment of the advisory  
5 committee under this resolution.