

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 995 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, HILL-EVANS, PICKETT, BROOKS, FREEMAN,  
POLINCHOCK, CIRESI, HOHENSTEIN, WEBSTER, JAMES, CONKLIN,  
WHEELAND, GILLEN AND SAINATO, MARCH 23, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 23, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs,  
3 establishing the Veterans' 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 § 714. Veterans' Outreach and Support Network Program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The Veterans' 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) Provide a Welcome Home to Pennsylvania packet to  
22 participants.

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

28 (4) Coordinate with county directors of veterans'  
29 affairs by providing information of veterans who request  
30 support through the Veterans' Registry.

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 send  
4 out the welcome packet to participate and join our veteran  
5 network.

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