

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1964 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, LEWIS
DELROSSO, RYAN, HELM, PENNYCUICK, MIZGORSKI AND SCHLEGEL
CULVER, OCTOBER 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 8, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Adjutant General, further providing
3 for general powers and duties of Adjutant General; and, in
4 State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for
5 Veterans' Affairs, further providing for qualifications and
6 status and for specific duties.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 902(10) of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is repealed:

11 § 902. General powers and duties of Adjutant General.

12 The Adjutant General as head of the department is responsible
13 to the Commonwealth and to the Governor for the organization and
14 functioning of said department, and the performance and carrying
15 out of all the duties, powers and responsibilities given or
16 delegated. In addition he is hereby authorized and directed to:

17 * * *

18 [(10) Make such bylaws, rules and regulations for the
19 management, general direction and control of the property of

1 the Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home or homes
2 wherever situate.]

3 * * *

4 Section 2. Sections 1711 and 1712 of Title 51 are amended to
5 read:

6 § 1711. Qualifications and status.

7 (a) [~~Deputy Adjutants General.--~~] Office of Deputy Adjutant
8 General for Veterans' Affairs.--The Office of Deputy Adjutant
9 General for Veterans' Affairs is established within the
10 department for administrative purposes only and shall report to
11 the Governor on all matters concerning veterans and their
12 families in this Commonwealth and shall work in consultation
13 with the advisory board. In addition to such other Deputy
14 Adjutants General as may be named in the department, there shall
15 be a Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, who shall
16 perform the duties under section 1712 (relating to specific
17 duties) [~~and such other duties as the Adjutant General may~~
18 ~~assign~~].

19 (b) Appointment.--The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'
20 Affairs shall be [~~selected and appointed as other Deputy~~
21 ~~Adjutants General are selected and appointed. He shall be a~~
22 ~~veteran and an active member of at least one of the veterans'~~
23 ~~organizations listed under section 1702(b) (relating to State~~
24 ~~Veterans' Commission).~~] appointed by the Governor from the list
25 of applicants provided by the advisory board.

26 (c) Compensation.--The compensation of the Deputy Adjutant
27 General for Veterans' Affairs shall be as established by law.

28 (d) Status.--[~~The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'~~
29 ~~Affairs shall be accorded all the rights, emoluments and~~
30 ~~privileges, except pay and allowances, of a brigadier general in~~

1 the Pennsylvania Guard and shall be addressed as "General."] The
2 qualifications of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'
3 Affairs shall be as follows:

4 (1) Must be a veteran with at least eight years of
5 service in the armed forces of the United States, which shall
6 include service in a reserve component or National Guard, and
7 discharged or released from service under honorable
8 conditions.

9 (2) Must possess a current and valid license related to
10 the administration of a nursing home, personal care home or
11 long-term care facility.

12 (3) Must have at least a four-year degree in business or
13 administration.

14 (4) Must possess a current and valid certification or
15 license at or above a paramedic or advanced emergency medical
16 technician.

17 (5) Must have acquired consecutively not less than two
18 years' experience in an administrative capacity.

19 § 1712. Specific duties.

20 In addition to such other duties as may be provided by law or
21 as assigned by the [Adjutant General] Governor, the Deputy
22 Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall have the following
23 specific duties:

24 (1) To recommend to [the Adjutant General and] the
25 Governor, with the advice of the [State Veterans' Commission]
26 commission and the advisory board, new legislation and
27 amendments to existing statutes concerning veterans and their
28 activities for consideration by the General Assembly.

29 (2) To cooperate with all Federal and State departments
30 and agencies in the interest of veterans.

1 (3) To aid in filing and prosecuting claims of
2 Pennsylvania's veterans and their dependents under Federal or
3 State laws or regulations.

4 (4) To aid veterans in seeking employment or
5 reemployment after their [honorable discharge from] service
6 in the armed forces of the United States[.], including a
7 reserve component or National Guard, in which their discharge
8 or release from service was under conditions other than
9 dishonorable.

10 (5) To aid veterans requiring medical care in securing
11 hospitalization provided by a Federal or State [medical or
12 care] health care facility.

13 (6) To aid in the rehabilitation of injured, wounded or
14 compensable veterans in educational institutions or
15 vocational training institutions for which they may be
16 eligible by law.

17 (7) To cooperate with and advise the Department of
18 Education with respect to vocational training programs for
19 veterans and their dependents, particularly programs suited
20 to casualties.

21 (8) To administer relief provided by the Commonwealth
22 for veterans and their dependents.

23 (9) To administer the distribution [under the direction
24 of the Adjutant General] of any compensation to veterans or
25 their dependents that has been or may be granted by the
26 Commonwealth.

27 (10) To investigate and report to the Governor and the
28 commission the work of other State agencies in administering
29 laws affecting veterans and their dependents.

30 (11) To investigate, compile and maintain complete and

1 accurate data concerning veterans of the armed forces of the
2 United States, including a reserve component or National
3 Guard, and all State and municipal activities related
4 thereto.

5 (12) To compile from the records transmitted from the
6 various counties of this Commonwealth a record of the burial
7 places in this Commonwealth of deceased veterans, including
8 such information as the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'
9 Affairs or his designee deems necessary and appropriate.

10 (13) To disseminate information concerning
11 Pennsylvania's veterans and Pennsylvania's veterans' programs
12 to the advisory board, to veterans' organizations, to the
13 public press and other media and to the general public.

14 (14) To biannually submit, through the Adjutant General,
15 to the Governor and the advisory board a report of State
16 activities on behalf of veterans.

17 (15) To serve as a clearinghouse for all problems or
18 issues related to Pennsylvania's veterans and their
19 dependents.

20 (16) To serve as Executive Secretary of the [State
21 Veterans' Commission] commission.

22 (17) To appoint, in consultation with the advisory
23 board, the commandant of a veterans' home.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.