THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL No. 892 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, CIRESI, KINSEY, PICKETT AND SCHLEGEL CULVER, APRIL 12, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 12, 2023

AN ACT

1 2 3	Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, establishing the PA VETConnect Program.
4	The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5	hereby enacts as follows:
6	Section 1. Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7	Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:
8	§ 714. PA VETConnect Program.
9	(a) EstablishmentThe PA VETConnect Program is
10	established.
11	(b) ParticipantsThe program may include Federal agencies,
12	State agencies, county directors of veterans affairs, veterans'
13	service organizations, accredited postsecondary educational and
14	technical institutions, the health care provider community,
15	businesses and nonprofit organizations.
16	(c) PurposeThe program shall:
17	(1) Improve the health and well-being of veterans and
18	the families of veterans through referrals, community

6by the department and information shall be disseminated to the7greatest extent possible on how to best navigate and utilize8available resources to improve the health and well-being of9veterans and the families of veterans.10(e) Duties of departmentThe department shall develop the11program, which shall contain a mission statement that shall be12clearly communicated to network advocates, partners and13participants under subsection (b). The department shall:14(1) Coordinate with Federal agencies, State agencies,15county directors of veterans affairs, veterans' service16organizations, accredited postsecondary educational and17technical institutions, the health care provider community,18businesses and nonprofit organizations, identified by the19department, that provide programs, initiatives, reintegratic20outreach and related services to veterans and the families of21veterans.22(2) Provide Welcome Home to Pennsylvania information to23recently separated service members.24(3) Provide information regarding program initiatives,25resources, training opportunities, veterans' service_26organizations and services available to be utilized by27individuals or groups who support veterans and their familie28as volunteers and offer outreach and support for veterans.29(4) Coordinate with county directors of veterans affairs	1	engagement and consistent network communication.
4 solutions to address the problems faced by veterans. 5 (d) RequirementsProgram requirements shall be determined 6 by the department and information shall be disseminated to the 7 greatest extent possible on how to best navigate and utilize 8 available resources to improve the health and well-being of 9 veterans and the families of veterans. 10 (e) Duties of departmentThe department shall develop the 11 program, which shall contain a mission statement that shall be 12 clearly communicated to network advocates, partners and 13 participants under subsection (b). The department shall: 14 (1) Coordinate with Federal agencies, State agencies, 15 county directors of veterans affairs, veterans' service 16 organizations, accredited postsecondary educational and 17 technical institutions, the health care provider community, 18 businesses and nonprofit organizations, identified by the 19 department, that provide programs, initiatives, reintegration 20 ueterans. 21 (2) Provide Welcome Home to Pennsylvania information to 23 recently separated service members. 24	2	(2) Organize participants under subsection (b) to
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1 Federal and State benefits and programs.

2	(5) Coordinate with veterans' service officers from
3	veterans' service officer grant programs or other veterans'
4	service officers to assist veterans in applying for Federal
5	veteran benefits.
6	Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.