

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1626 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, KINSEY, STAATS, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, DELLOSO, CONKLIN, MARKOSEK, N. NELSON, PISCIOTTANO, D. WILLIAMS, FIEDLER, BRENNAN, CERRATO, MULLINS, BOROWSKI, PROBST, POWELL AND MADSEN, AUGUST 29, 2023

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 6, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, IN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS, <--
3 ESTABLISHING THE PA VETCONNECT PROGRAM; providing for
4 veterans' benefits and services workplace posting; and making
5 an editorial change.

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

8 ~~Section 1. Part V heading of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania~~ <--
9 ~~Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:~~

10 SECTION 1. TITLE 51 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED <--
11 STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

12 § 714. PA VETCONNECT PROGRAM.

13 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE PA VETCONNECT PROGRAM IS
14 ESTABLISHED.

15 (B) PARTICIPANTS.--THE PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE FEDERAL AGENCIES,
16 STATE AGENCIES, COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS'
17 SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, ACCREDITED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL AND

1 TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY,  
2 BUSINESSES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

3 (C) PURPOSE.--THE PROGRAM SHALL:

4 (1) IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF VETERANS AND  
5 THE FAMILIES OF VETERANS THROUGH REFERRALS, COMMUNITY  
6 ENGAGEMENT AND CONSISTENT NETWORK COMMUNICATION.

7 (2) ORGANIZE PARTICIPANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) TO  
8 COOPERATE WITH NETWORK PARTNERS TO PROVIDE FOR PROACTIVE  
9 SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS FACED BY VETERANS.

10 (D) REQUIREMENTS.--PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE DETERMINED  
11 BY THE DEPARTMENT AND INFORMATION SHALL BE DISSEMINATED TO THE  
12 GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE ON HOW TO BEST NAVIGATE AND UTILIZE  
13 AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF  
14 VETERANS AND THE FAMILIES OF VETERANS.

15 (E) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND  
16 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM, WHICH SHALL CONTAIN A MISSION STATEMENT  
17 THAT SHALL BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED TO NETWORK ADVOCATES,  
18 PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (B). THE DEPARTMENT  
19 SHALL:

20 (1) COORDINATE WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES, STATE AGENCIES,  
21 COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS' SERVICE  
22 ORGANIZATIONS, ACCREDITED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL AND  
23 TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY,  
24 BUSINESSES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, IDENTIFIED BY THE  
25 DEPARTMENT, THAT PROVIDE PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, REINTEGRATION  
26 OUTREACH AND RELATED SERVICES TO VETERANS AND THE FAMILIES OF  
27 VETERANS.

28 (2) PROVIDE PENNSYLVANIA SALUTES YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE  
29 INFORMATION TO RECENTLY SEPARATED SERVICE MEMBERS.

30 (3) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING PROGRAM INITIATIVES,

1 RESOURCES, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, VETERANS' SERVICE  
2 ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO BE UTILIZED BY  
3 INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHO SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
4 AS VOLUNTEERS AND OFFER OUTREACH AND SUPPORT FOR VETERANS.

5 (4) COORDINATE WITH COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
6 BY PROVIDING INFORMATION OF VETERANS WHO REQUEST SUPPORT FOR  
7 FEDERAL AND STATE BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS.

8 (5) COORDINATE WITH VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS FROM  
9 VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER GRANT PROGRAMS OR OTHER VETERANS'  
10 SERVICE OFFICERS TO ASSIST VETERANS IN APPLYING FOR FEDERAL  
11 VETERAN BENEFITS.

12 SECTION 2. PART V HEADING OF TITLE 51 IS AMENDED TO READ:

13 PART V

14 EMPLOYMENT [PREFERENCES] AND PENSIONS

15 Section 2 3. Title 51 is amended by adding a chapter to <--  
16 read:

17 CHAPTER 74

18 VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES WORKPLACE POSTING

19 Sec.

20 7401. Definitions.

21 7402. Workplace posting.

22 § 7401. Definitions.

23 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
25 context clearly indicates otherwise:

26 "Employer." An employer with a worksite in this Commonwealth  
27 at which more than 50 full-time employees are employed.

28 "Full-time employee." An individual that is employed by an  
29 employer and works at least 40 hours per week.

30 "Workplace posting." The posting created by the department

1 under section 7402(a) (relating to workplace posting).

2 § 7402. Workplace posting.

3 (a) Creation.--The department shall create a standardized  
4 workplace posting for placement by an employer. The department <--  
5 shall provide the workplace posting to each employer and place  
6 the workplace posting on the department's publicly accessible  
7 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY SHALL PLACE THE WORKPLACE <--  
8 POSTING ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE Internet website  
9 so that an employer can print a copy of the workplace posting.

10 (b) Placement. The workplace posting: <--

11 (1) Shall, except as provided under paragraph (2), be  
12 displayed by the employer in a conspicuous area accessible to  
13 employees.

14 (2) May be placed on an employer's Internet website  
15 which is accessible to employees.

16 (B) PLACEMENT.--THE WORKPLACE POSTING SHALL BE DISPLAYED BY <--  
17 AN EMPLOYER IN A CONSPICUOUS AREA ACCESSIBLE TO EMPLOYEES.

18 (c) Contents.--The workplace posting shall include the  
19 following:

20 (1) Contact and website information for the department.

21 (2) Substance abuse and mental health treatment <--  
22 information.

23 (3) Educational, workforce and training resources.

24 (4) Tax benefit information.

25 (5) Pennsylvania driver's license and nondriver  
26 identification card designation information.

27 (6) Eligibility information for unemployment insurance  
28 benefits under Federal and State law.

29 (7) Legal services information.

30 (2) INFORMATION AND CONTACTS FOR A RANGE OF FEDERAL AND <--

1 COMMONWEALTH BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND VETERANS'  
2 FAMILIES.

3 ~~(8)~~ (3) Contact information for the United States <--  
4 Department of Veterans Affairs Crisis Line.

5 ~~(9)~~ (4) Contact information for county directors of <--  
6 veterans affairs.

7 (D) POLICY.--THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO THE WORKPLACE <--

8 POSTING:

9 (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT NOTICE OF THE CONTENT  
10 OF THE WORKPLACE POSTING TO THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
11 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE OF THE  
12 PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

13 (2) THE WORKPLACE POSTING SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW  
14 UNDER THE FOLLOWING:

15 (I) SECTION 205 OF THE ACT OF JULY 31, 1968  
16 (P.L.769, NO.240), REFERRED TO AS THE COMMONWEALTH  
17 DOCUMENTS LAW.

18 (II) SECTIONS 204(B) AND 301(10) OF THE ACT OF  
19 OCTOBER 15, 1980 (P.L.950, NO.164), KNOWN AS THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS ACT.

21 (III) THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1982 (P.L.633, NO.181),  
22 KNOWN AS THE REGULATORY REVIEW ACT.

23 Section ~~3~~ 4. This act shall take effect in ~~60~~ 90 days. <--