

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB3646**

Introduced 2/5/2026, by Sen. Mike Porfirio

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

See Index

Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Expands the Act to permit the creation of Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commissions (JVAC) in counties that did not have a Veterans Assistance Commission prior to January 1, 2026, and in which there exists a judicial circuit whose jurisdictional boundaries include multiple counties. Provides that veteran service organizations located within any of those counties that are within the judicial circuit's jurisdictional boundaries may come together and create a JVAC that shall provide services to veterans and their families and shall be known as the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of that judicial circuit. Contains provisions on the selection process for the JVAC superintendent and delegates; and other matters. Expands the Act to provide assistance for military veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States, as defined, and did not receive a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent discharge. Provides that if a supervisor of general assistance or county board fails or refuses to provide assistance recommended by the assistance committee of a veterans service organization, VAC, or JVAC, then the veterans service organization, VAC, or JVAC may request that all parties involved enter into an arbitration agreement. Permits any person who is eligible for assistance under the Act to bring a civil action against the county for failing or refusing to provide such assistance. Prohibits the disbursement or transfer of VAC or JVAC funding to any not-for-profit corporation or any other such organization. Contains provisions on annual voting reporting requirements; mandatory training for VAC and JVAC delegates and alternates; a prohibition on a VAC or JVAC establishing or operating a not-for-profit corporation that has a name substantially similar to the name of the VAC or JVAC; permission to receive gifts or donations in furtherance of veterans' interests; benefits for VAC and JVAC employees; the establishment of a Veterans Assistance Provost within the Office of the Attorney General; audit reports; and other matters.

LRB104 17695 KTG 31126 b

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 5-2006 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/5-2006) (from Ch. 34, par. 5-2006)

7 Sec. 5-2006. Tax for Veterans Assistance Commission. The  
8 county board of each county having a population of less than 3  
9 million in which there is a Veterans Assistance Commission as  
10 provided in Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act  
11 may levy a tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value  
12 annually on all taxable property of the county, for the  
13 purpose of providing assistance to military veterans and their  
14 families pursuant to such Act. Whenever not less than 10% of  
15 the electors of the county petition the county board to levy  
16 the tax at not to exceed .04% of the assessed value, the county  
17 board shall certify the proposition to the proper election  
18 officials who shall submit the proposition at the next general  
19 election in accordance with the general election law. If a  
20 majority of the electors vote in favor of the proposition, the  
21 county board may, annually, levy the tax as authorized.

22 The county board of each county that has a population of  
23 less than 3,000,000 and that is a participant in a

1 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission as provided in  
2 Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act may levy a  
3 tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value annually on all  
4 taxable property of the county for the purpose of providing  
5 assistance to military veterans and their families pursuant to  
6 such Act. The proceeds from this tax for a Jurisdictional  
7 Veterans Assistance Commission shall be directed into the  
8 county treasury of the county where the Jurisdictional  
9 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered.

10 The respective proceeds of any tax so levied for a  
11 Veterans Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional Veterans  
12 Assistance Commission shall be used exclusively for the  
13 assistance purposes authorized thereunder, and a portion  
14 thereof may be expended for the salaries of any officers or  
15 employees of the Veterans Assistance Commission, for the  
16 authorized reimbursement of any officer or employee of the  
17 Veterans Assistance Commission, as provided in Section 10 of  
18 the Military Veterans Assistance Act, or for any other  
19 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance.

20 The tax shall be separate from all other taxes which the  
21 county is authorized to levy on the aggregate valuation of the  
22 property within the county and shall not be included in any tax  
23 limitation of the rate upon which taxes are required to be  
24 extended, but shall be excluded therefrom and in addition  
25 thereto. The tax shall be levied and collected in like manner  
26 as the general taxes of the county, and, when collected, shall

1 be paid into a special fund in the county treasury and used  
2 only as herein authorized, or disbursed from the county  
3 treasury of a county in which a properly organized Veterans  
4 Assistance Commission is authorized under Section 3-11008 of  
5 this Code.

6 The limitations on tax rates herein provided may be  
7 increased or decreased under the referendum provisions of the  
8 General Revenue Law of Illinois.

9 If a county has levied the tax herein authorized or  
10 otherwise meets the conditions set out in Section 12-21.13 of  
11 the Illinois Public Aid Code, to qualify for State funds to  
12 supplement local funds for public purposes under Articles III,  
13 IV, V, VI, and IX of that Code and otherwise meets the  
14 conditions set out in Article XII of that Code for receipt of  
15 State aid, the Illinois Department of Human Services shall  
16 allocate and pay to the county such additional sums as it  
17 determines to be necessary to meet the needs of assistance to  
18 military veterans and their families in the county and  
19 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance. In  
20 counties where a Veterans Assistance Commission has been  
21 properly created, those County Veterans Assistance Commissions  
22 shall be in charge of the administration of such assistance  
23 provided under the Illinois Public Aid Code for military  
24 veterans and their families.

25 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 Section 10. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
2 changing Section 12-21.13 as follows:

3 (305 ILCS 5/12-21.13) (from Ch. 23, par. 12-21.13)

4 Sec. 12-21.13. Local funds required to qualify for state  
5 aid. To qualify for State funds to supplement local funds for  
6 public aid purposes, a local governmental unit shall, except  
7 as hereinafter provided, levy within the time that such levy  
8 is authorized to be made a tax of an amount which, when added  
9 to the unobligated balance available for such purposes at the  
10 close of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which  
11 the tax is levied will equal .10% of the last known total  
12 equalized value of all taxable property in the governmental  
13 unit.

14 In a county of less than 3 million population in which  
15 there is created a County Veterans Assistance Commission, the  
16 county shall levy for assistance to military veterans and  
17 their families, within the time that such levy is authorized  
18 to be made, a tax of an amount which, when added to the  
19 unobligated balance available for such purpose at the close of  
20 the preceding fiscal year will equal .02% of the last known  
21 assessed value of the taxable property in the county, or which  
22 will equal .03% of such assessed value if such higher amount is  
23 authorized by the electors of the county, as provided in  
24 Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code.

25 In a county that has a population of less than 3,000,000

1 and that is a participant in a Jurisdictional Veterans  
2 Assistance Commission, the county shall levy for assistance to  
3 military veterans and their families, within the time that  
4 such levy is authorized to be made, a tax of an amount which,  
5 when added to the unobligated balance available for such  
6 purpose at the close of the preceding fiscal year, equals .02%  
7 of the last known assessed value of the taxable property in the  
8 county. The proceeds from this tax for a Jurisdictional  
9 Veterans Assistance Commission shall be directed into the  
10 county treasury of the county where the Jurisdictional  
11 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered.

12 If, however, at the latest date in the year on which the  
13 aforesaid taxes are authorized to be levied there is in the  
14 unobligated balance of the local governmental unit an amount  
15 equal to .10%, or .02% in the case of Veterans' Assistance, of  
16 the last known total equalized value of all taxable property  
17 in the governmental unit, then no tax need be levied in that  
18 year in order for the local governmental unit to qualify for  
19 State funds.

20 In determining the amount of the unobligated balance which  
21 is to be applied in producing the required levy for receipt of  
22 State funds, or which is to be applied in determining whether a  
23 tax levy is required, there shall be deducted from the gross  
24 unobligated balance of funds available at the close of the  
25 preceding fiscal year the total amount of State funds  
26 allocated to the governmental unit during that year and the

1 total amount of any monies transferred to a township's general  
2 town fund under Section 235-20 of the Township Code during  
3 that year, and only the remainder shall be considered in  
4 determining the amount of the deficiency needed to produce an  
5 amount equal to the qualifying levy for the current year.

6 (Source: P.A. 87-796; 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

7 Section 15. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is  
8 amended by changing Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 9.1, 9.2, and 10 and  
9 by adding Section 9.3 as follows:

10 (330 ILCS 45/1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3081)

11 Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

12 "Veteran service organization" means a post, ship, camp,  
13 chapter, or detachment of a congressionally chartered or state  
14 chartered organization that (i) is formed by and for veterans,  
15 (ii) has a paid membership of at least 15 individuals, and  
16 (iii) provides responsible aid, assistance, or services to the  
17 veteran community.

18 "Administrator of military veterans assistance" means the  
19 commanders of the various veteran service organizations, the  
20 superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission, or  
21 other persons whose duty it is, under the existing statutes,  
22 to care for, relieve or maintain, wholly or in part, any person  
23 who may be entitled to such assistance under the statutes of  
24 the State of Illinois. This Act shall not infringe upon the

1 mandated powers and authorities vested in the Illinois  
2 Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 "Armed forces" or "armed forces of the United States"  
4 means any of the Armed Forces of the United States, including  
5 any reserve component or National Guard unit. Service under  
6 the authority of U.S.C. Title 10, 14, or 32, State active duty,  
7 service in the National Guard of any state or territory  
8 regardless of status, and service in the State Guard as  
9 defined in the State Guard Act shall be considered service in  
10 the armed forces and armed forces of the United States for  
11 purposes of this Act.

12 "Military veteran" or "veteran" means a person who has  
13 served in the armed forces and who did not receive a bad  
14 conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent  
15 discharge.

16 (Source: P.A. 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

17 (330 ILCS 45/2) (from Ch. 23, par. 3082)

18 Sec. 2. The purpose of this Act is, in part, to provide, in  
19 accordance with this Section, just and necessary assistance  
20 and services to military veterans who served in the Armed  
21 Forces of the United States ~~and whose last discharge from the~~  
22 ~~service was honorable or general under honorable conditions,~~  
23 to their families, and to the families of deceased veterans  
24 with service who need such assistance and services. The  
25 following actions shall be taken in support of that purpose:

1           (1) The supervisor of general assistance or the county  
2 board shall annually appropriate and provide such sums of  
3 money as may be just and necessary to be drawn by the  
4 commander, quartermaster or commandant of any veterans  
5 service organization, in the city or town, or the  
6 superintendent of any Veterans' Assistance Commission of  
7 the county, upon the request ~~recommendation~~ of the  
8 assistance committee of that veterans service organization  
9 or Veterans' Assistance Commission.

10           (A) Funding for Veterans Assistance Commissions  
11 may be derived from 3 sources, if applicable:

12           (i) a tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the  
13 Counties Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois  
14 Public Aid Code;

15           (ii) funds from the county general corporate  
16 fund; and

17           (iii) State funds from the Department of Human  
18 Services.

19           (B) The minimum amount to be appropriated and  
20 provided annually and paid on behalf of ~~to~~ Veterans  
21 Assistance Commissions in counties with a population  
22 of less than 3,000,000 is 0.02% of the last known  
23 assessed value of the taxable property in the county  
24 or 0.03% of such assessed value if such higher amount  
25 has been authorized for levy by the electors of the  
26 county as ~~is~~ provided in Section 12-21.13 of the

1 Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the delegates of the  
2 County Veterans Assistance Commission determine that a  
3 lesser amount covers the just and necessary sums. The  
4 minimum amount required under this Section to be  
5 appropriated and provided annually to Veterans  
6 Assistance Commissions is equal to the amount required  
7 under Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code  
8 concerning the qualification for supplemental State  
9 funds. The changes made to this subparagraph by this  
10 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly are a  
11 declaration of existing law and shall not be construed  
12 as a new enactment.

13 (1.5) The supervisor of general assistance or the  
14 county board of a county in which a Jurisdictional  
15 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered shall  
16 provide such sums of money as may be just and necessary to  
17 be drawn by the superintendent of the Jurisdictional  
18 Veterans Assistance Commission headquartered in that  
19 county, upon the recommendation of the delegates of the  
20 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission. Each  
21 participating county of a Jurisdictional Veterans  
22 Assistance Commission shall fund the Jurisdictional  
23 Veterans Assistance Commission in accordance with this  
24 Section. Participating counties shall provide the support  
25 and materials required to administer a Jurisdictional  
26 Veterans Assistance Commission in the same manner

1 individual counties are required under this Act to provide  
2 support and materials to single-county Veterans Assistance  
3 Commissions.

4 (A) Funding for Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
5 Commissions may be derived from a tax levied under  
6 Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and Section  
7 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

8 (B) The minimum amount to be appropriated and  
9 provided annually and paid on behalf of Jurisdictional  
10 Veterans Assistance Commissions is provided in Section  
11 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the  
12 delegates of the Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
13 Commission determine that a lesser amount covers the  
14 just and necessary sums.

15 (2) If any supervisor of general assistance or county  
16 board fails or refuses after such request ~~recommendation~~  
17 to provide just and necessary sums of money for such  
18 assistance, then the veterans service organization or  
19 Veterans Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional  
20 Veterans Assistance Commission may request that all  
21 parties involved enter into an arbitration agreement.  
22 Arbitrators shall be appointed in accordance with the  
23 appointment provisions in Section 3 of the Uniform  
24 Arbitration Act. Arbitrators shall confer with the  
25 Veterans Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of the  
26 Attorney General, prior to the issuing of any award under

1 this Act. If both parties do not agree to arbitration,  
2 then the veteran service organization or the  
3 superintendent of any Veterans ~~Veterans~~ Assistance  
4 Commission located in the district of such supervisor of  
5 general assistance or such county board or the  
6 superintendent of any Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
7 Commission headquartered in the district of such  
8 supervisor of general assistance or such county board  
9 shall apply to the circuit court of the district or county  
10 for relief by mandamus upon the supervisor of general  
11 assistance or county board requiring him, her or it to  
12 pay, or to appropriate and pay such sums of money, and upon  
13 proof made of the justice and necessity of the claim, the  
14 circuit court shall grant the sums so requested and may  
15 enter an order requiring the county board to pay  
16 attorney's fees and an additional amount equal to or less  
17 than the sum of interest of the Veterans Assistance  
18 Commission's or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
19 Commission's initial request having accrued at the rate of  
20 1% per month beginning on the month that the Veterans  
21 Assistance Commission's or Jurisdictional Veterans  
22 Assistance Commission's initial request was submitted to  
23 the supervisor of general assistance or the county board.

24 (2.5) Any person eligible for assistance under this  
25 Act who does not receive such assistance after a  
26 supervisor of general assistance or county board fails or

1 refuses to provide the just and necessary sums of money to  
2 fund a Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional  
3 Veterans Assistance Commission may bring a civil action  
4 against the county to seek redress under this Section.

5 (3) Such sums of money shall be drawn in the manner now  
6 provided under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and  
7 Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Orders  
8 of commanders, quartermasters, commandants, or  
9 superintendents of those veterans service organizations or  
10 those Veterans ~~Veterans~~ Assistance Commissions or those  
11 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commissions shall be  
12 proper warrants for the expenditure of such sums of money  
13 and no county may refuse to make payment on such a warrant.

14 (4) Funding for a Veterans Assistance Commission or  
15 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission granted  
16 under this Section may not be disbursed to or transferred  
17 from the Commission to any not-for-profit corporation or  
18 any other entity of any type for the purpose of relegating  
19 the responsibilities of the Veterans Assistance Commission  
20 or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission under  
21 this Act to the not-for-profit corporation or other  
22 entity. Funding for a Veterans Assistance Commission or  
23 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission granted  
24 under this Section may not be commingled with other  
25 monies.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 (330 ILCS 45/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 3088)

2 Sec. 8. The commander, quartermaster, or commandant of any  
3 veteran service organization ~~or the superintendent of any~~  
4 ~~county Veterans' Assistance Commission~~ of Illinois shall  
5 annually report to the Governor, on or before the first day of  
6 January of each year, such portions of the transactions of the  
7 aforementioned veteran service organization ~~or Veterans~~  
8 ~~Assistance Commission~~ relating thereto as the commander ~~or~~  
9 ~~superintendent~~ may deem to be of interest to that organization  
10 and the people of the State. A copy of that report shall be  
11 provided to the president or chairperson of the county board  
12 and shall be made publicly available online.

13 The superintendent of every Veterans Assistance Commission  
14 and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall  
15 annually report to the Governor, on or before the first day of  
16 January of each year, a summary of all minutes and voting  
17 results of the Veterans Assistance Commission or  
18 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission from the  
19 previous year. Upon receipt of the report, or as soon  
20 thereafter as is practicable, the Office of the Governor shall  
21 submit a written confirmation of receipt to the superintendent  
22 of the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional  
23 Veterans Assistance Commission that includes a statement on  
24 whether the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional  
25 Veterans Assistance Commission is in compliance with all

1 reporting requirements under this paragraph. A copy of the  
2 annual report and the confirmation receipt shall be provided  
3 to the Office of the Attorney General and to the president or  
4 chairperson of the county board in which the Veterans  
5 Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
6 Commission is headquartered. The annual report and  
7 confirmation receipt shall also be made publicly available  
8 online. For these purposes every Veterans Assistance  
9 Commission and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission  
10 shall maintain a website or webpage as part of its respective  
11 county's official website.

12 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

13 (330 ILCS 45/9) (from Ch. 23, par. 3089)

14 Sec. 9. Veterans Assistance Commission.

15 (a) In counties having 2 or more veteran service  
16 organizations as may be recognized by law, the veteran service  
17 organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance  
18 Commission of such county. The Veterans Assistance Commission  
19 of such county may act as the central service office for all  
20 veterans and their families and for the families of deceased  
21 veterans. The Commission shall be composed of delegates and  
22 alternates from a majority of such veteran service  
23 organizations selected annually as determined by each veteran  
24 service organization. When so organized a Commission shall be  
25 clothed with all the powers and may be charged with all the

1 duties theretofore devolving upon the different veteran  
2 service organizations within the county as provided in Section  
3 2.

4 (1) Every January 1, all Veterans Assistance  
5 Commissions shall publish a notice to each veteran service  
6 organization within their respective county calling on  
7 them to select delegates and alternates for that county's  
8 Veterans Assistance Commission by the methods provided in  
9 this subsection. The Veterans Assistance Commissions shall  
10 allow each veteran service organization until March 1 to  
11 respond, at which time those selected and duly appointed  
12 delegates and alternates shall begin their term of office  
13 with full voting rights. However, if any delegate or  
14 alternate fails to complete the training required under  
15 the Open Meetings Act within 90 days after beginning their  
16 term of service, then that delegate or alternate shall be  
17 stripped of any voting rights until that delegate or  
18 alternate completes the training. Once selected, delegates  
19 and alternates are bound by the Public Officer Prohibited  
20 Activities Act. Within 30 days after the delegates and  
21 alternates are seated, each Veterans Assistance Commission  
22 shall publish electronically on its website, or on a  
23 designated webpage of its county's official website, the  
24 name of each delegate and alternate along with each  
25 delegate's and alternate's corresponding veteran service  
26 organization.

1           (1.5) Each duly appointed delegate and alternate must  
2           successfully complete an online electronic training  
3           curriculum, developed and administered by the Veterans  
4           Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of the Attorney  
5           General, within 30 days after the delegate or alternate is  
6           seated. Each delegate or alternate successfully completing  
7           the electronic training curriculum shall file a copy of  
8           the affirmation and certificate of completion with the  
9           Veterans Assistance Commission. If any delegate or  
10           alternate fails to complete the training required under  
11           this paragraph, within 30 days after beginning his or her  
12           term of service, then that delegate or alternate shall be  
13           stripped of any voting rights until that delegate or  
14           alternate completes the training and affirmation.

15           (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), veteran  
16           service organizations shall be permitted to select one  
17           delegate and one alternate.

18           (3) In counties with 5 or more of the same veteran  
19           service organizations, all the constituent veteran service  
20           organizations shall be permitted to select up to 5  
21           delegates and 5 alternates to represent that veteran  
22           service organization instead of each constituent veteran  
23           service organization selecting one delegate and one  
24           alternate. For the purposes of meeting the majority  
25           requirement of this subsection, when the constituent  
26           groups of a veteran service organization choose to select

1 those delegates and alternates, those selected and duly  
2 appointed delegates and alternates shall represent the  
3 aggregate percentage of the constituent groups.

4 (4) If a veteran service organization serves more than  
5 one county, then it shall be permitted to select one  
6 delegate and one alternate for the Veterans Assistance  
7 Commission in each county in which at least 25% of its  
8 members reside.

9 (4.5) Within 30 days after the delegates and  
10 alternates are seated, each Veterans Assistance Commission  
11 shall publish electronically on its website or on the  
12 webpage of its county's website the name of each delegate  
13 and alternate along with the Commission's corresponding  
14 veteran service organization, the name of the commander,  
15 quartermaster, or commandant of that veteran service  
16 organization, and the mailing address of that veteran  
17 service organization.

18 (5) All undertakings of, or actions taken by, the  
19 Commission shall require a vote from a majority of the  
20 full commission membership. No committee or other subgroup  
21 of delegates and alternates formed by the Commission,  
22 whether selected or appointed, may be granted the power or  
23 authority to act in the place of or on behalf of the full  
24 body of the duly selected or appointed Commission  
25 membership.

26 (6) No superintendent or any other employee of the

1 Veterans Assistance Commission may retain the position of  
2 delegate or alternate or any voting rights while employed  
3 by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

4 (7) No committee or other subgroup of delegates and  
5 alternates formed by the Commission, whether selected or  
6 appointed, may bar any other duly appointed Commission  
7 member from attending or otherwise being present during  
8 any closed meetings or sessions of that committee or  
9 group.

10 (8) The county may, at its discretion, appoint a  
11 representative to the Commission who may attend any public  
12 meeting of the Commission. That representative shall be a  
13 veteran, may not have voting rights, may not hold any  
14 office or title on the Commission, and may not be present  
15 during any nonpublic meeting of the Commission, except as  
16 authorized in this Act. For matters of executive session,  
17 the non-voting county appointee may attend meetings that  
18 are closed in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (5),  
19 (6), or (11) of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Open  
20 Meetings Act for litigation matters not relating to  
21 litigation between the Commission and the County.

22 (9) A Veterans Assistance Commission may not establish  
23 or operate a not-for-profit corporation that has a  
24 substantially similar name to that of the Veterans  
25 Assistance Commission.

26 (10) A Veterans Assistance Commission may receive any

1       unsolicited gift, grant, donation, or legacy made for the  
2       purpose of assisting veterans or in furtherance of such  
3       interests. Any such unsolicited gift, grant, donation, or  
4       legacy shall be subject to reporting and auditing  
5       requirements as mandated by law.

6       (b) The Commission and its selected or appointed  
7       superintendent shall have oversight of the distribution of all  
8       moneys and supplies appropriated for the benefit of military  
9       veterans and their families, subject to such rules,  
10      regulations, administrative procedures or audit reviews as are  
11      required by this Act and as are necessary as approved by the  
12      Commission to carry out the spirit and intent of this Act. No  
13      warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for the  
14      payment of money without the presentation of an itemized  
15      statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the  
16      Commission. No county may refuse to process and pay a warrant  
17      issued in accordance with this Act.

18      (c) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
19      Commission, selected, appointed, or hired by the Commission is  
20      an at-will employee who shall be answerable to, and shall  
21      report to, the Commission.

22      (d) The superintendent shall be evaluated annually and a  
23      written report shall be generated. A copy of the report from  
24      the evaluation shall be provided to the entire Commission  
25      membership.

26      (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after

1 delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service  
2 organizations file a written request calling for the  
3 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of  
4 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal. If a  
5 Commission is comprised of only 2 veteran service  
6 organizations, then the superintendent may be removed from  
7 office if, after delegates from both veteran service  
8 organizations file a written request calling for the  
9 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of  
10 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

11 An employee of the Commission, other than the  
12 superintendent, may be removed from the employee's position  
13 if, after the superintendent has brought such removal action  
14 before the Commission for consideration, there is a vote from  
15 a majority of the full Commission membership in favor of such  
16 removal.

17 (f) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall establish  
18 and maintain bylaws that outline the framework, policies, and  
19 procedures for conducting the business of the Commission and  
20 for the rules and regulations that apply to its members. Those  
21 bylaws shall reflect compliance with all relevant laws at the  
22 time they are established and shall be revised as necessary to  
23 remain in compliance with current law. The establishment of  
24 those bylaws, and any revisions thereafter, shall require a  
25 minimum two-thirds majority vote of approval from a majority  
26 of the full Commission membership.

1 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,  
2 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place  
3 in its respective county. Such policies must include, but are  
4 ~~, including, but~~ not limited to, policies related to  
5 compensation, employee rights, ethics, procurement, financial  
6 assistance, donations, and budget, and shall adapt those  
7 policies to fit its organizational structure and needs as  
8 determined in the sole discretion of the Commission. The  
9 adapted policies must be reasonably similar to the  
10 corresponding county policies. Those policies shall then be  
11 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission  
12 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by  
13 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall  
14 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an  
15 applicable policy within 90 ~~60~~ days of the county board  
16 amendment. However, nothing in this subsection shall be  
17 construed to permit a county or its policies to control a  
18 Veteran Assistance Commission's operations.

19 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for  
20 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized  
21 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the  
22 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership. No  
23 county may refuse payment on such a warrant after approval of  
24 the itemized statement or claim by the superintendent.

25 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an  
26 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit

1 Act using either the auditing services provided by its  
2 respective county or the services of an independent auditor  
3 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of  
4 that audit report shall be provided to the Veterans Assistance  
5 Provost on behalf of the Attorney General and the president or  
6 chairperson of the county board of the Commission's respective  
7 county. The audit report shall also be made publicly available  
8 online. For these purposes the Veterans Assistance Commission  
9 shall maintain a website or webpage as part of its respective  
10 county's official website.

11 (j) Veterans Assistance Commissions and county boards  
12 subject to this Act shall cooperate fully with the boards,  
13 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the  
14 State. The funds held and made available by the county, the  
15 State, or any other source shall be subject to financial and  
16 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State  
17 Auditing Act.

18 (k) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall be in charge  
19 of the administration of any benefits provided under Articles  
20 VI and IX of the Illinois Public Aid Code for military veterans  
21 and their families.

22 (l) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall represent  
23 veterans in their application for or attempts to obtain  
24 benefits and services through State and federal agencies,  
25 including representing veterans in their appeals of adverse  
26 decisions.

1 (m) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
2 Commission and its employees must comply with the procedures  
3 and regulations adopted by the Veterans Assistance Commission  
4 and the regulations of the Department of Human Services.

5 (n) To further the intent of this Act of assisting  
6 military veterans, this Act is to be construed so that the  
7 Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide needed services  
8 to eligible veterans. Such services shall include the  
9 provision of assistance as set forth in this Act and the  
10 Illinois Public Aid Code.

11 (o) (1) In counties that did not have a Veterans Assistance  
12 Commission prior to January 1, 2026, and in which there exists  
13 a judicial circuit whose jurisdictional boundaries include  
14 multiple counties, veteran service organizations located  
15 within any of those counties that are within the judicial  
16 circuit's jurisdictional boundaries may come together and  
17 create a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission that  
18 shall provide services to veterans and their families. The  
19 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall be known  
20 as the Veterans Assistance Commission of that judicial  
21 circuit.

22 (2) The superintendent of a Jurisdictional Veterans  
23 Assistance Commission formed in accordance with paragraph (1)  
24 shall be selected from among all honorably discharged veterans  
25 of all participating counties within that judicial circuit's  
26 boundaries and shall maintain a centrally located office

1 within that judicial circuit. However, for a Jurisdictional  
2 Veterans Assistance Commission formed within a large judicial  
3 circuit, the superintendent is not precluded from having  
4 multiple offices that shall be owned and maintained by the  
5 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission.

6 (3) Delegates and alternates shall be selected by the  
7 veterans service organizations of that judicial circuit in the  
8 same manner as prescribed in paragraph (1) of subsection (a)  
9 and shall be subject to the online electronic training  
10 requirements imposed on delegates and alternates appointed to  
11 a single-county Veterans Assistance Commission as prescribed  
12 in paragraph (1.5) of subsection (a).

13 (4) Every Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission  
14 must publish electronically on its website the name of each  
15 appointed delegate and alternate as prescribed in paragraph  
16 (4.5) of subsection (a) for single-county Veterans Assistance  
17 Commissions.

18 (5) Every Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission  
19 shall be subject to the same prohibitions, standards,  
20 discretionary authority, and other requirements single-county  
21 Veterans Assistance Commissions are subject to under this  
22 Section unless otherwise provided.

23 (6) Any existing Veterans Assistance Commission that is  
24 part of a judicial circuit that is comprised of multiple  
25 counties, as of January 1, 2025, may merge into a Veterans  
26 Assistance Commission of that judicial circuit with its

1 neighboring counties. Those existing Veterans Assistance  
2 Commissions that choose not to merge may continue to exist  
3 independently while the other counties combine to form a new  
4 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission of that judicial  
5 circuit.

6 (7) Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 104th General  
7 Assembly shall be interpreted to restrict any Jurisdictional  
8 Veterans Assistance Commissions from providing services to  
9 veterans and their families who reside outside of those  
10 participating counties.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-484, eff. 8-20-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;  
12 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

13 (330 ILCS 45/9.1)

14 Sec. 9.1. Violations.

15 (a) If the Attorney General has reasonable cause to  
16 believe that there is or has been a violation of Section 2, 8,  
17 ~~or 9~~, or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10~~, then the  
18 Attorney General shall be empowered to issue and cause to be  
19 served on any person or entity an order to cease and desist  
20 from further violation of this Act. The Attorney General may  
21 also commence a civil action in the name of the People of the  
22 State to enforce the provisions of this Act in any appropriate  
23 circuit court. The court, in its discretion, may exercise all  
24 powers necessary, including, but not limited to: injunction;  
25 mandamus; revocation; forfeiture or suspension of any funding,

1 rights, privileges, responsibilities, or support, as deemed  
2 necessary to ensure compliance; and any other action the court  
3 may deem appropriate.

4 (b) Prior to initiating a civil action, the Attorney  
5 General shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine  
6 whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation  
7 is being or has been committed and whether the dispute can be  
8 resolved without litigation. In conducting this investigation,  
9 the Attorney General may:

10 (1) require the individual, group, or entity to file a  
11 statement or report in writing under oath or otherwise, as  
12 to all information the Attorney General may consider  
13 necessary;

14 (2) examine under oath any person alleged to have  
15 participated in or with knowledge of the alleged  
16 violation;

17 (3) issue subpoenas or conduct hearings in aid of any  
18 investigation; or

19 (4) examine any record, book, document, account, or  
20 paper as the Attorney General may consider necessary.

21 (c) Service by the Attorney General of any notice  
22 requiring a person to file a statement or report, or of a  
23 subpoena upon any person, shall be made:

24 (1) personally by delivery of a duly executed copy  
25 thereof to the person to be served or, if a person is not a  
26 natural person, in the manner provided by the Code of

1 Civil Procedure when a complaint is filed; or

2 (2) by mailing by certified mail a duly executed copy  
3 thereof to the person to be served at the person's last  
4 known abode or principal place of business within this  
5 State.

6 (d) Whenever any person fails to comply with any subpoena  
7 issued under this Section or whenever satisfactory copying or  
8 reproduction of any material requested in an investigation  
9 cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the  
10 material, the Attorney General may file in any appropriate  
11 circuit court, and serve upon the person, a petition for a  
12 court order for the enforcement of the subpoena or other  
13 request.

14 Any person who has received a subpoena issued under  
15 subsection (b) may file in the appropriate circuit court, and  
16 serve upon the Attorney General, a petition for a court order  
17 to modify or set aside the subpoena or other request. The  
18 petition must be filed either: (1) within 20 days after the  
19 date of service of the subpoena or at any time before the  
20 return date specified in the subpoena, whichever date is  
21 earlier, or (2) within a longer period as may be prescribed in  
22 writing by the Attorney General.

23 The petition shall specify each ground upon which the  
24 petitioner relies in seeking relief under this subsection and  
25 may be based upon any failure of the subpoena to comply with  
26 the provisions of this Section or upon any constitutional or

1 other legal right or privilege of the petitioner. During the  
2 pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as  
3 it deems proper, the running of the time allowed for  
4 compliance with the subpoena or other request, in whole or in  
5 part, except that the petitioner shall comply with any portion  
6 of the subpoena or other request not sought to be modified or  
7 set aside.

8 (e) In the administration of this Act, the Attorney  
9 General may accept an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance with  
10 respect to any violation of the Act from any person or entity  
11 who has engaged in, is engaging in, or was about to engage in  
12 such violation. Evidence of a violation of an Assurance of  
13 Voluntary Compliance shall be prima facie evidence of a  
14 violation of this Act in any subsequent proceeding brought by  
15 the Attorney General against the alleged violator.

16 (f) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require  
17 the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations or  
18 pursue litigation before a Veterans Assistance Commission or  
19 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission or  
20 superintendent of such a commission may pursue mandamus,  
21 declaratory judgment, or any other available legal remedy.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

23 (330 ILCS 45/9.2)

24 Sec. 9.2. Remedies.

25 (a) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe

1 that any person, group, or entity is violating, has violated,  
2 or is about to violate Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or ~~subsection (a),~~  
3 ~~(b), or (c) of Section~~ 10, the Attorney General may bring an  
4 action in the name of the People of the State against the  
5 person, group, or entity to restrain by preliminary or  
6 permanent injunction the use of any practice that violates  
7 Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~  
8 10. In such an action, the court may award restitution to  
9 recoup the loss of moneys set aside to provide services to  
10 veterans or any other relief that the court deems proper.

11 (b) In addition, the court may assess a civil penalty not  
12 to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or  
13 ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~ 10.

14 (c) In any action brought in accordance with Section 9.1  
15 or 9.2 ~~under the provisions of Section 8 or 9 or subsection~~  
16 ~~(a), (b), or (c) of Section 10~~, the Attorney General is  
17 entitled to recover costs.

18 (d) If a court orders a party to make payments to the  
19 Attorney General and the payments are to be used for the  
20 operations of the Office of the Attorney General or a party  
21 agrees, in an out-of-court settlement, to make payment to the  
22 Attorney General for the operations of the Office of the  
23 Attorney General, then moneys shall be deposited into the  
24 Attorney General Court Ordered and Voluntary Compliance  
25 Payment Projects Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used,  
26 subject to appropriation, for the performance of any function

1 pertaining to the exercise of the duties of the Attorney  
2 General, including, but not limited to, enforcement of any law  
3 of this State and conducting public education programs.  
4 However, any moneys in the Fund that are required by the court  
5 or by an agreement to be used for a particular purpose shall be  
6 used for that purpose.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

8 (330 ILCS 45/9.3 new)

9 Sec. 9.3. Veterans Assistance Provost.

10 (a) The Attorney General shall appoint a Veterans  
11 Assistance Provost and provide staff as are deemed necessary  
12 by the Attorney General for the Veterans Assistance Provost.  
13 The Veterans Assistance Provost shall be an attorney licensed  
14 to practice in Illinois.

15 (b) Through the Veterans Assistance Provost, the Attorney  
16 General shall have the power to establish training for  
17 delegates and alternates of each Veterans Assistance  
18 Commission and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,  
19 provide instruction and education concerning this Act,  
20 facilitate the resolution of disputes concerning the  
21 provisions of this Act, and carry out the enforcement of this  
22 Act as provided.

23 (330 ILCS 45/10) (from Ch. 23, par. 3090)

24 Sec. 10. Superintendents and counties.

1       (a) As used in this Section, "Commission", when a  
2 particular entity is not specified, means a Veterans  
3 Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
4 Commission, or both, according to the specific context.

5       (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o) of  
6 Section 9 for a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,  
7 the ~~The~~ executive powers of a ~~the~~ Commission shall be vested in  
8 a superintendent selected or appointed by a vote from a  
9 majority of the full Commission membership and who shall have  
10 received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the  
11 United States.

12       (b) Superintendent vacancies shall be filled, whether  
13 long-term or temporarily, at the next regularly scheduled full  
14 Commission meeting or within 30 days at a specially convened  
15 meeting, whichever comes sooner, and shall be selected by a  
16 vote from a majority of the full Commission membership.

17       (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o) of  
18 Section 9 for a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,  
19 any ~~Any~~ individual who may be tasked with assuming the duties  
20 of or may be vested with the executive powers of a  
21 superintendent, whether as acting or interim superintendent,  
22 must be selected or appointed by a vote from a majority of the  
23 full Commission membership and must have received an honorable  
24 discharge from the armed forces of the United States.

25       (d) Under the direction of the Commission which shall have  
26 final discretion in selecting an appropriate office facility,

1 ~~the~~ ~~The~~ designated superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
2 Commission of the county shall, ~~under the direction of the~~  
3 ~~Commission,~~ have charge of and maintain an office at in the  
4 ~~county building or~~ a central location within the county or at a  
5 location which is otherwise convenient to veterans and their  
6 families in the discretion of the Commission, to be used  
7 solely by the Commission for providing the just, necessary,  
8 and needed services mandated by law. The office may be in the  
9 county building if there is available room and such facilities  
10 are acceptable to the Commission.

11 The designated superintendent of a Jurisdictional Veterans  
12 Assistance Commission shall have charge of and maintain an  
13 office in accordance with the provisions under subsection (o)  
14 of Section 9.

15 (e) From its own general fund, the ~~The~~ county where the  
16 Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans  
17 Assistance Commission is headquartered or organized shall  
18 provide for the funding of the office and provide all  
19 necessary furnishings, supplies, and services as passed by the  
20 county board in its annual appropriation, and the county shall  
21 provide or fund services, including, but not limited to, human  
22 resources and payroll support; information technology services  
23 and equipment; telephone services and equipment; printing  
24 services and equipment; postage costs; and liability  
25 insurance. Such funding may not be drawn from the tax levied  
26 under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and Section 12-21.13

1 of the Illinois Public Aid Code or from State funds from the  
2 Department of Human Services. Any litigation or legal  
3 settlement that has a financial impact to the county is  
4 subject to the approval of the county board.

5 (f) The county where the Veterans Assistance Commission or  
6 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered  
7 or organized shall also provide to the employees of the  
8 Commission all benefits available to county employees,  
9 including, but not limited to, benefits offered through the  
10 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund or any other applicable  
11 county retirement fund; health, life, and dental insurance;  
12 and workers compensation insurance. Employer contributions and  
13 costs for these benefits, services, and coverages may come  
14 from Commission funds. However, such funding may not be drawn  
15 from the tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code  
16 and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code or from  
17 State funds from the Department of Human Services. Counties  
18 not currently providing benefits to Commission employees must  
19 comply with this subsection within 90 days after the effective  
20 date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

21 (g) The county board shall, in any county where a Veterans  
22 Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance  
23 Commission is headquartered or ~~is~~ organized, in addition to  
24 sums appropriated for these just, necessary, and needed  
25 services as provided by law and approved by the Commission  
26 under this Act, appropriate such additional sums, upon

1 recommendation of the Veterans Assistance Commission or  
2 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission, to properly  
3 compensate, ~~in accordance with the requirements of subsection~~  
4 ~~(g) of Section 9 and subsection (c) of this Section~~, the  
5 officers and employees required to administer such assistance  
6 in accordance with the policies, procedures, and resolutions  
7 of the Commission. The county board shall also provide funds  
8 to the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional  
9 Veterans Assistance Commission ~~Commission~~ to reimburse the  
10 superintendent, officers, delegates, and employees for certain  
11 expenses which are approved by the Commission. Funding for  
12 compensation and reimbursements under this subsection may be  
13 drawn from the tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the Counties  
14 Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code. The  
15 superintendent and other employees shall be employees of the  
16 Veterans Assistance Commission Jurisdictional Veterans  
17 Assistance Commission, and no provision in this Section or  
18 elsewhere in this Act shall be construed to mean that they are  
19 employees of the county or that the county has any discretion  
20 or oversight as to the compensation, benefits, or other terms  
21 and conditions of employment of Veterans Assistance Commission  
22 employees or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission  
23 employees; such discretion rests solely and exclusively with  
24 the Commission. However, a provider of employee benefits may  
25 consider Veterans Assistance Commission employees or  
26 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission employees as

1 county employees for the purpose of administering employee  
2 benefits. The changes to this subsection made by this  
3 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly are a declaration  
4 of existing law and shall not be construed as a new enactment.

5 (h) Superintendents, subject to rules formulated by the  
6 Commission, shall select, as far as possible, Veteran Service  
7 Officers and other employees from among military veterans,  
8 including those who have served or may still be serving as  
9 members of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component  
10 of the armed forces of the United States, who did not receive a  
11 bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent  
12 discharge thereof, or their spouses, surviving spouses, or  
13 children. Employees of the Commission shall be at-will  
14 employees.

15 (i) In a county with less than 2,000,000 inhabitants, the  
16 superintendent may, in conformance with subsection (f) of  
17 Section 3-9005 of the Counties Code, request from the State's  
18 Attorney serving the county in which the Veterans Assistance  
19 Commission is located, an opinion upon any question of law  
20 relating to a matter in which the county Veterans Assistance  
21 Commission may be concerned. With regard to matters involving  
22 Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~ or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~  
23 10, the State's Attorney shall confer with the Office of the  
24 Attorney General before rendering an opinion.

25 (j) Superintendents of all counties subject to this Act,  
26 when required by the Commission, shall give bond in the sum of

1 \$2,000 for the faithful performance of their duties.

2 (k) All persons selected or appointed to fill positions  
3 provided for in this Section shall be exempt from the  
4 operation and provisions of any civil service act or laws of  
5 this State, and the secretary of the Commission shall be  
6 appointed by the superintendent.

7 (l) If any Veterans Assistance Commission or  
8 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission fails to timely  
9 submit to the Veterans Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of  
10 the Attorney General, copies of the audits and reports  
11 required under this Act, or fails to publish the audits and  
12 reports as required under this Act, then the superintendent or  
13 interim superintendent of that Veterans Assistance Commission  
14 or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall be  
15 fined an amount no greater than \$50 for each month or portion  
16 of each month that the Veterans Assistance Commission or  
17 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission fails to submit  
18 the audit or report, or fails to publish the audit or report as  
19 required under this Act. The State's Attorney of the county in  
20 which the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional  
21 Veterans Assistance Commission is located or the Attorney  
22 General may apply to the circuit court of the district or  
23 county for relief by mandamus requiring the superintendent or  
24 interim superintendent to pay the fine. The fine shall be  
25 payable to the county in which the Veterans Assistance  
26 Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission is

1 located and shall be deposited into the general corporate fund  
2 of that county.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-56, eff. 7-9-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;  
4 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3	55 ILCS 5/5-2006	from Ch. 34, par. 5-2006
4	305 ILCS 5/12-21.13	from Ch. 23, par. 12-21.13
5	330 ILCS 45/1	from Ch. 23, par. 3081
6	330 ILCS 45/2	from Ch. 23, par. 3082
7	330 ILCS 45/8	from Ch. 23, par. 3088
8	330 ILCS 45/9	from Ch. 23, par. 3089
9	330 ILCS 45/9.1	
10	330 ILCS 45/9.2	
11	330 ILCS 45/9.3 new	
12	330 ILCS 45/10	from Ch. 23, par. 3090