

HOUSE BILL No. 1355

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 12-8-15; IC 20-19-10; IC 21-18-16; IC 25-1-20.

Synopsis: Collection of veteran status information. Requires the family and social services administration, the department of education, the commission for higher education, and the professional licensing agency (agencies) to include the following questions in an application for a benefit, financial assistance, a service, or a professional credential: (1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?". (2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?". Provides that the applications must state that the applicant has the option to decline to answer the questions. Requires the agencies to keep the information submitted in a data base and to share the information with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs. Allows the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to use the shared information to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families.

Effective: July 1, 2021.

Speedy

January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.



First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1355

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state offices and administration.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 12-8-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2021]:
4 **Chapter 15. Veteran Status Information**
5 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to services provided after December**
6 **31, 2021.**
7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces of the United**
8 **States" has the meaning set forth in IC 5-9-4-3.**
9 **Sec. 3. (a) An application for any service provided under this**
10 **title must contain the following questions:**
11 **(1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States**
12 **or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana**
13 **National Guard?"**
14 **(2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in**
15 **the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the**
16 **National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?"**
17 **(b) An application described in subsection (a) must indicate that**



1 an applicant has the option whether or not to answer the questions
2 set forth in subsection (a).

3 **Sec. 4. The office of the secretary shall keep the information**
4 **submitted under section 3 of this chapter in a data base and share**
5 **the information with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs**
6 **upon the request of the department. Information shared under this**
7 **section may be used by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs**
8 **to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families.**

9 SECTION 2. IC 20-19-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
10 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JULY 1, 2021]:

12 **Chapter 10. Veteran Status Information**

13 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to services provided after December**
14 **31, 2021.**

15 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces of the United**
16 **States" has the meaning set forth in IC 5-9-4-3.**

17 **Sec. 3. (a) An application for any assistance or service provided**
18 **under this title must contain the following questions:**

19 (1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States
20 or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana
21 National Guard?"

22 (2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in
23 the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the
24 National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?"

25 (b) An application described in subsection (a) must indicate that
26 an applicant has the option whether or not to answer the questions
27 set forth in subsection (a).

28 **Sec. 4. The department shall keep the information submitted**
29 **under section 3 of this chapter in a data base and share the**
30 **information with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs upon**
31 **the request of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs.**
32 **Information shared under this section may be used by the Indiana**
33 **department of veterans' affairs to develop outreach programs for**
34 **veterans and their families.**

35 SECTION 3. IC 21-18-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
36 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
37 JULY 1, 2021]:

38 **Chapter 16. Veteran Status Information**

39 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to services provided after December**
40 **31, 2021.**

41 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces of the United**
42 **States" has the meaning set forth in IC 21-14-1-2.7.**



1 **Sec. 3. (a) An application for any financial assistance or service**
 2 **provided under this title must contain the following questions:**

3 **(1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States**
 4 **or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana**
 5 **National Guard?"**.

6 **(2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in**
 7 **the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the**
 8 **National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?"**.

9 **(b) An application described in subsection (a) must indicate that**
 10 **an applicant has the option whether or not to answer the questions**
 11 **set forth in subsection (a).**

12 **Sec. 4. The commission shall keep the information submitted**
 13 **under section 3 of this chapter in a data base and share the**
 14 **information with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs upon**
 15 **the request of the department. Information shared under this**
 16 **section may be used by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs**
 17 **to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families.**

18 SECTION 4. IC 25-1-20 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
 19 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
 20 1, 2021]:

21 **Chapter 20. Veteran Status Information**

22 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to credentials issued after December**
 23 **31, 2021.**

24 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces of the United**
 25 **States" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-1-12-3.**

26 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "credential" means any license,**
 27 **permit, certificate, registration, or similar document issued under**
 28 **this title.**

29 **Sec. 4. (a) An application for any credential issued under this**
 30 **title must contain the following questions:**

31 **(1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States**
 32 **or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana**
 33 **National Guard?"**.

34 **(2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in**
 35 **the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the**
 36 **National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?"**.

37 **(b) An application described in subsection (a) must indicate that**
 38 **an applicant has the option whether or not to answer the questions**
 39 **set forth in subsection (a).**

40 **Sec. 5. The professional licensing agency shall keep the**
 41 **information submitted under section 4 of this chapter in a data**
 42 **base and share the information with the Indiana department of**



1 **veterans' affairs upon the request of the Indiana department of**
2 **veterans' affairs. Information shared under this section may be**
3 **used by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to develop**
4 **outreach programs for veterans and their families.**

