

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 2013 Regular Session and 2013 First Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 180

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning veterans.

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

SECTION 1. IC 10-17-12.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW CHAPTER** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014]:

Chapter 12.5. Veterans Disability Clinic Fund

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the Indiana veterans' affairs commission established by IC 10-17-13-4.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the Indiana department of veterans' affairs established by IC 10-17-1-2.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "director" refers to the director of veterans' affairs.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the veterans disability clinic fund established by section 7 of this chapter.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "qualified law school" means a law school:

- (1) located in Indiana; and**
- (2) approved by the American Bar Association;**

that operates a veterans disability clinic.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "veterans disability clinic" means a law school clinical program that:

- (1) offers practice opportunities to law students to counsel or represent veterans in claims for veterans disability**



compensation;

- (2) is part of the educational curriculum of the law school;
- (3) is under the direction of a law school faculty member who is recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under 38 U.S.C. 5904; and
- (4) provides legal services at no cost or nominal cost to veterans.

Sec. 7. (a) The veterans disability clinic fund is established to provide funding for grants to qualified law schools that establish or maintain a veterans disability clinic.

(b) The fund shall be administered by the commission.

(c) The fund consists of the following:

- (1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.
- (2) Donations to the fund.
- (3) Interest.
- (4) Money from any other source authorized or appropriated for the fund.

Sec. 8. A qualifying law school that wishes to receive a grant to establish or maintain a veterans disability clinic under this chapter shall consult with the department to:

- (1) identify veterans in need of counsel or representation in a claim for veterans disability compensation;
- (2) inform veterans about the availability of legal services through the veterans disability clinic; and
- (3) develop an educational outreach program as part of the veterans disability clinic to advise veterans of their rights in the claims process for veterans disability compensation.

Sec. 9. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) As used in this SECTION, "department" refers to the state department of health.

(b) As used in this SECTION, "veteran" refers to any individual in Indiana who has a United States military service related injury or disability, regardless of active, reserve, or retired status.

(c) Not later than September 1, 2014, the department, in consultation with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs and the division of mental health and addiction, shall:

- (1) conduct a study; and
- (2) report, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, the department's findings and recommendations to the legislative council;

concerning the implementation of a program for the specific



treatment of veterans who have traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.

(d) Findings and recommendations made under subsection (c) must include the following:

(1) After consideration by the department of treatment protocols and therapies for traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder, including:

- (A) resource facilitation;
- (B) cognitive rehabilitation; and
- (C) hyperbaric therapy;

recommendations concerning the best peer reviewed, evidence based protocols and therapies to be used to provide the treatment described in subsection (c).

(2) Recommendations concerning the types of health care providers necessary for implementation and any certification of the program.

(3) The estimated number of veterans who have traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.

(4) An analysis of available federal and state funding for the program.

(5) An analysis of the costs of traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder among veterans and the economic impact of implementation of the program.

(e) This SECTION expires January 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) The general assembly urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate interim committee during the 2014 interim a study of veterans' benefits. The study must include the following:

(1) How transforming Indiana's veterans' benefit services can increase benefits to veterans and beneficiaries in compensation, pensions, education, medical care, and other areas.

(2) How Indiana compares to other states in each component of benefits, as reported annually by the Veterans Benefits Administration, including the following:

- (A) Total expenditures, compensation, and pensions.
- (B) Education.
- (C) Medical and related care.

(3) How Indiana's structure of assisting beneficiaries in obtaining veterans' benefits and tools may be restructured, including reviewing the following areas:

- (A) Management, organization, staffing, and information



technology.

(B) Education.

(C) Employment.

(D) Compensation, pensions, and other benefits.

(E) Health care education and delivery.

(b) This SECTION expires December 31, 2014.

SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.



President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

