

HOUSE BILL No. 2581

By Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

2-7

1 AN ACT concerning veterans; relating to the Kansas commission on
2 veterans affairs; requiring annual reporting by the executive director;
3 amending K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 and repealing the existing
4 section.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows: 73-1209. The executive director of the Kansas ~~veterans~~
9 commission *on veterans affairs*, in accordance with general policies
10 established by the commission, shall:

11 ~~(1)~~(a) Collect data and information as to the facilities, benefits and
12 services now or hereafter available to veterans and their relatives and
13 dependents, and furnish such information to veterans and their relatives
14 and dependents and local service officers of veterans' organizations.

15 ~~(2)~~(b) Prepare plans for a comprehensive statewide veterans' service
16 program.

17 ~~(3)~~(c) Coordinate the program of state agencies which may properly
18 be utilized in the administration of various aspects of the problems of
19 veterans, and relatives and dependents of veterans, such as the ~~department~~
20 ~~of social and rehabilitation services~~ *Kansas department for children and*
21 *families*, the department of labor, the state board of education, the board of
22 regents and any other state office, department, board or commission
23 furnishing service to veterans or their relatives or dependents.

24 ~~(4)~~(d) Provide a central contact between federal and state agencies
25 dealing with the problems of veterans and their relatives and dependents.

26 ~~(5)~~(e) Maintain records of cases handled by the executive director
27 which shall show at least the following information: ~~(a)~~ (1) The name of
28 the veteran; ~~(b)~~ (2) claim or case number of the veteran; and ~~(c)~~ (3)
29 amount of monthly benefit received by the veteran, so as to facilitate the
30 necessary interchange of case histories among state administrative
31 agencies and provide a clearinghouse of information.

32 ~~(6)~~(f) Provide such services to veterans and their relatives and
33 dependents as are not otherwise offered by federal agencies.

34 ~~(7)~~(g) Provide a central agency to which veterans and their relatives
35 and dependents may turn for information and assistance.

36 ~~(8)~~(h) Provide and maintain such field services as shall be necessary

1 to properly care for the needs of veterans and their relatives and
2 dependents which shall not be operated in connection with the ~~social and~~
3 ~~rehabilitation services~~ Kansas department for children and families.

4 (i) (1) Prepare and submit a written report to the house committee on
5 veterans, military and homeland security and to the governor, providing
6 the following:

7 (A) A report on the progress made by the Kansas commission on
8 veterans affairs and its executive director on the division of post audit's
9 recommendations, as published in the May 2013 performance audit
10 report, Kansas commission on veterans affairs: Evaluating selected
11 financial controls at the Kansas soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans'
12 home;

13 (B) information on the current financial control practices
14 implemented by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs for the Kansas
15 soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans' home, including, but not limited
16 to, the current policies and procedures at both facilities;

17 (C) information on the current residential care services provided for
18 veterans in the Kansas soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans' home;

19 (D) recommendations for legislation necessary to ensure that the
20 needs of the veterans in Kansas are met, as described in K.S.A. 73-1207,
21 and amendments thereto; and

22 (E) any other information deemed necessary.

23 (2) The executive director shall submit the report on or before the
24 first day of the legislative session in 2015, and each year thereafter.

25 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 is hereby repealed.

26 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
27 publication in the statute book.