

1 AN ACT relating to veterans.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 40.317 is amended to read as follows:

4 ~~***The***~~~~[No later than June 30, 2008, the]~~ Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs shall  
5 employ no ***more***~~[fewer]~~ than five (5) veterans' benefits regional administrators and no  
6 fewer than twenty (20) veterans' benefits field representatives.

7 (1) The duties of a veterans' benefits regional administrator shall include but not be  
8 limited to supervision of veterans' benefits field representatives in an assigned  
9 region~~[ and representation of veterans in administrative hearings and before the~~  
10 ~~Board of Veterans' Appeals]~~.

11 (2) The duties of a veterans' benefits field representative shall include but not be limited  
12 to providing assistance to veterans and their dependents with initiation, preparation,  
13 documentation, and adjudication of claims to benefits under federal, state, or local  
14 laws.

15 ➔Section 2. KRS 40.325 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) ***As used in this section, "nurse aide" means an individual who has successfully***  
17 ***completed the nurse aide training and competency evaluation program and may***  
18 ***include a nursing student, medication aide, or a person employed through a***  
19 ***nursing pool who provides nursing or nursing-related services to a resident in a***  
20 ***nursing facility, excluding:***

21 ***(a) An individual who is a licensed health professional;***

22 ***(b) A volunteer who provides the nursing or nursing-related services without***  
23 ***monetary compensation; or***

24 ***(c) A person who is hired by the resident or family to sit with the resident and***  
25 ***who does not perform nursing or nursing-related services.***

26 **(2)** There shall be established and maintained in the Commonwealth of Kentucky state  
27 veterans' nursing homes to provide long-term care to veterans who are residents of

1 Kentucky.

2 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ There is created the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers within the  
3 Department of Veterans' Affairs. The office shall be headed by an executive director  
4 appointed pursuant to KRS 12.050. The office shall operate the Kentucky state  
5 veterans' nursing homes. The Department of Veterans' Affairs may promulgate any  
6 administrative regulations necessary to operate the homes in compliance with  
7 applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.

8 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ The Department of Veterans' Affairs may seek federal and private funding for  
9 the construction or renovation, and operation of Kentucky state veterans' nursing  
10 homes.

11 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ The executive director of the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers, with the  
12 approval of the commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, may contract  
13 to hire licensed nurses *and nurse aides* in order to provide needed long-term care of  
14 veterans in residence at state veterans' nursing homes, and those contracts shall not  
15 be subject to KRS 45A.550 to 45A.554 or 45A.690 to 45A.725.

16 ➔Section 3. KRS 45A.690 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) As used in KRS 45A.690 to 45A.725:

18 (a) "Committee" means the Government Contract Review Committee of the  
19 Legislative Research Commission;

20 (b) "Contracting body" means each state board, bureau, commission, department,  
21 division, authority, university, college, officer, or other entity, except the  
22 Legislature, authorized by law to contract for personal services. "Contracting  
23 body" includes the Tourism Development Finance Authority with regard to  
24 tax incentive agreements;

25 (c) "Governmental emergency" means an unforeseen event or set of  
26 circumstances that creates an emergency condition as determined by the  
27 committee by promulgation of an administrative regulation;

1 (d) "Memorandum of agreement" means any memorandum of agreement,  
2 memorandum of understanding, program administration contract, interlocal  
3 agreement to which the Commonwealth is a party, privatization contract, or  
4 similar device relating to services between a state agency and any other  
5 governmental body or political subdivision of the Commonwealth or entity  
6 qualified as nonprofit under 26 U.S.C. sec. 501(c)(3) not authorized under  
7 KRS Chapter 65 that involves an exchange of resources or responsibilities to  
8 carry out a governmental function. It includes agreements by regional  
9 cooperative organizations formed by local boards of education or other public  
10 educational institutions for the purpose of providing professional educational  
11 services to the participating organizations and agreements with Kentucky  
12 Distinguished Educators pursuant to KRS 158.782. This definition does not  
13 apply to:

- 14 1. Agreements between the Transportation Cabinet and any political  
15 subdivision of the Commonwealth for road and road-related projects;
- 16 2. Agreements between the Auditor of Public Accounts and any other  
17 governmental agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth for  
18 auditing services;
- 19 3. Agreements between state agencies as required by federal or state law;
- 20 4. Agreements between state agencies and state universities or colleges  
21 only when the subject of the agreement does not result in the use of an  
22 employee or employees of a state university or college by a state agency  
23 to fill a position or perform a duty that an employee or employees of  
24 state government could perform if hired, and agreements between state  
25 universities or colleges and employers of students in the Commonwealth  
26 work-study program sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education  
27 Assistance Authority;

- 1           5.    Agreements involving child support collections and enforcement;
- 2           6.    Agreements with public utilities, providers of direct Medicaid health
- 3                 care to individuals except for any health maintenance organization or
- 4                 other entity primarily responsible for administration of any program or
- 5                 system of Medicaid managed health care services established by law or
- 6                 by agreement with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and
- 7                 transit authorities;
- 8           7.    Nonfinancial agreements;
- 9           8.    Any obligation or payment for reimbursement of the cost of corrective
- 10                 action made pursuant to KRS 224.60-140;
- 11           9.    Exchanges of confidential personal information between agencies;
- 12           10.  Agreements between state agencies and rural concentrated employment
- 13                 programs; or
- 14           11.  Any other agreement that the committee deems inappropriate for
- 15                 consideration;
- 16       (e)  "Motion picture or entertainment production" means the same as defined in
- 17                 KRS 148.542;
- 18       (f)  "Multicontract" means a group of personal service contracts between a
- 19                 contracting body and individual vendors providing the same or substantially
- 20                 similar services to the contracting body that, for purposes of the committee,
- 21                 are treated as one (1) contract;
- 22       (g)  "Nurse aide" means an individual who has successfully completed the
- 23                 nurse aide training and competency evaluation program and may include a
- 24                 nursing student, medication aide, or a person employed through a nursing
- 25                 pool who provides nursing or nursing-related services to a resident in a
- 26                 nursing facility, excluding:
- 27                 (a)  An individual who is a licensed health professional;

1                   **(b) A volunteer who provides the nursing or nursing-related services**  
2                   **without monetary compensation; or**

3                   **(c) A person who is hired by the resident or family to sit with the resident**  
4                   **and who does not perform nursing or nursing-related services.**

5           **(h)** "Personal service contract" means an agreement whereby an individual, firm,  
6           partnership, or corporation is to perform certain services requiring  
7           professional skill or professional judgment for a specified period of time at a  
8           price agreed upon. It includes all price contracts for personal services between  
9           a governmental body or political subdivision of the Commonwealth and any  
10          other entity in any amount. This definition does not apply to:

- 11           1.    Agreements between the Department of Parks and a performing artist or  
12           artists for less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per fiscal year per  
13           artist or artists;
- 14           2.    Agreements with public utilities, foster care parents, providers of direct  
15           Medicaid health care to individuals except for any health maintenance  
16           organization or other entity primarily responsible for administration of  
17           any program or system of Medicaid managed health care services  
18           established by law or by agreement with the Cabinet for Health and  
19           Family Services, individuals performing homemaker services, and  
20           transit authorities;
- 21           3.    Agreements between state universities or colleges and employers of  
22           students in the Commonwealth work study program sponsored by the  
23           Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
- 24           4.    Agreements between a state agency and rural concentrated employment  
25           programs;
- 26           5.    Agreements between the State Fair Board and judges, officials, and  
27           entertainers contracted for events promoted by the State Fair Board;

- 1           6. Agreements between the Department of Public Advocacy and attorneys  
2           for the representation of indigent clients who are entitled to  
3           representation under KRS Chapter 31 and who, by reason of conflict or  
4           otherwise, cannot be represented by the department, subject to quarterly  
5           reports of all such agreements to the committee;
- 6           7. Agreements between the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers and  
7           licensed nurses and nurse aides in order to provide critically needed  
8           long-term care to Kentucky veterans who are residents in state veterans'  
9           nursing homes pursuant to KRS 40.325; or
- 10          8. Any other contract that the committee deems inappropriate for  
11          consideration;
- 12          ~~(i)(h)~~ "Tax incentive agreement" means an agreement executed under KRS  
13          148.546; and
- 14          ~~(i)(i)~~ "Tourism Development Finance Authority" means the authority  
15          established by KRS 148.850.
- 16 (2) Compliance with the provisions of KRS 45A.690 to 45A.725 does not dispense  
17 with the requirements of any other law necessary to make the personal service  
18 contract or memorandum of agreement valid.