As Introduced

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S. B. No. 179

Senator Johnson
Cosponsors: Senators Weinstein, Brenner, Cirino

To amend sections 341.02 and 5901.03 and to enact section 341.43 of the Revised Code to verify the veteran status of imprisoned individuals and individuals facing imprisonment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 341.02 and 5901.03 be amended and section 341.43 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 341.02. The sheriff shall make the following entries in a suitable book, which shall be known as the "jail register," kept in the office of the jailer, and delivered to the successor in office of such jailer:

(A) The name of each prisoner, and the date and cause of ~~his~~the prisoner's commitment;

(B) The date and manner of ~~his~~ the prisoner's discharge;

(C) If the prisoner is verified as a veteran as a result of an investigation conducted pursuant to section 341.43 of the Revised Code, the veteran status of the prisoner.

The sheriff or jail administrator shall prepare written

operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of conduct, and maintain the records prescribed by these policies and procedures in accordance with the minimum standards for jails in Ohio promulgated by the department of rehabilitation and correction.

The court of common pleas shall review the jail's operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of conduct. If the court approves the policies, procedures, and rules of conduct, they shall be adopted.

Sec. 341.43. (A) All of the following institutions or entities shall designate as soon as practicable at least one individual to perform the duties set forth in division (B) of this section:

(1) Each institution that is under the control of the department of rehabilitation and correction;

(2) Each county, municipal, municipal-county, and multicounty correctional institution that has on its premises a jail, workhouse, minimum security jail, community-based correctional facility, or facility in which an individual shall serve a term of imprisonment or prison term pursuant to section 2929.34 of the Revised Code for the type of criminal offense and under the circumstances specified or referred to in that section;

(3) Each court of common pleas, municipal and county court, department of probation, and pre-trial diversion program;

(4) Each county veterans service commission.

(B) Each institution or entity referred to in division (A) of this section shall do all of the following:

(1) Determine the number of individuals necessary to perform the duties set forth in divisions (B)(4) to (6) of this section;

(2) Upon determining the number of necessary individuals, designate as soon as practicable that number of individuals to perform the duties set forth in divisions (B)(4) to (6) of this section;

(3) Train each designated qualified individual to use the veteran's reentry search service operated by the United States department of veterans affairs by seeking cost-free training assistance from a representative of the veterans justice outreach program operated by the department of veterans affairs or other appropriate representative of the department. If an institution or entity is unable to acquire cost-free assistance from the department, the institution or entity may, at the institution's or entity's own expense, retain individuals who are knowledgeable about the veteran's reentry search service by training or experience to assist in training designated qualified individuals to use the service;

(4) Investigate and verify the veteran status of each individual served by the institution or entity, appearing before the institution or entity, or who is in the institution's or entity's care or custody, and who is imprisoned or charged with a criminal offense punishable by incarceration. The institution or entity shall conduct investigations under division (B)(4) of this section by using data provided by the veteran's reentry search service operated by the United States department of veterans affairs;

(5) For each individual verified as a veteran as a result of an investigation conducted pursuant to division (B)(4) of

this section, note the individual's status as a veteran on all appropriate records pursuant to rules adopted under division (C) of this section;

(6) For each individual verified as a veteran as a result of an investigation conducted pursuant to division (B)(4) of this section, assist the individual in contacting veteran-related services such as the department of veterans services, county veteran service commissions, veteran service organizations, a representative of the veterans justice outreach program operated by the United States department of veterans affairs, or community organizations that may assist veterans in applying for any federal, state, or local veteran-related resources.

(C) The director of rehabilitation and correction shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section for each of the institutions or entities under its control, including rules establishing the types of records upon which an individual's veteran status must be indicated pursuant to division (B)(5) of this section. Institutions and entities referred to in division (A)(2) or (4) of this section that are not under the control of the department of rehabilitation and corrections shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section, including rules establishing the types of records upon which an individual's veteran status must be indicated pursuant to division (B)(5) of this section.

Sec. 5901.03. The veterans service commission shall select one of its members as president, one as vice-president, and one as secretary. The commission shall meet at least once each month. A judge of the court of common pleas may remove, for cause, any member of the commission appointed under section

5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired terms in the manner provided for the original appointments.

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited to the following:

(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the commission's duties, and fixing their compensation;

(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the administration of the commission and the veterans service office;

(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the administration of assistance as provided under this chapter;

(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission and veterans service office to be presented to the board of county commissioners for approval;

(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans within the county~~.~~, which may include either of the following:

(1) Providing financial assistance to a veterans treatment court to establish and fulfill an outreach program under this section;

(2) Hiring and compensating a person who will work at a veterans treatment court and provide assistance to the court as specified by the terms of an outreach program established under this section.

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for ongoing education and training for veterans service commissioners and staff;

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, and to others, upon request;

(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers whose districts the county is within, through contractual agreements or through other arrangements determined by the commission to be most cost-effective;

(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans services;

(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter.

Section 2. That existing sections 341.02 and 5901.03 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.