SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), in conjunction with the Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), to establish programs to provide microloans and technical assistance to veteran-owned businesses, including through the use of revolving loan funds for small businesses to assist small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and service-connected veterans, as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 632(q), with a goal of seven percent of funds to be loaned to such small business concerns annually.

Requires the DVS, in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD), to apply data to aid veterans in accessing in-demand fields of employment. In addition, the DVS, in conjunction with the DLWD, is required to expand proven, cost-effective training programs that leverage veterans' experiences.

Requires the DVS, in conjunction with the Department of Safety (DOS), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DOE), and the University of Tennessee System to increase veterans' access to college degrees, certificates, and licenses.

Requires the DVS to develop and operate veteran health navigator services in order to increase veterans' access to healthcare coverage, including mental health coverage in order to prevent veteran suicides.

Requires coordination with local, state, and federal government agencies.

Requires the DVS work to aid in ending veteran homelessness through various means.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

> **Increase State Expenditures - $775,600/FY21-22**
> **$761,200/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years**
>
> **Other Fiscal Impact – This legislation could result in additional state or local expenditures to provide veterans with additional resources; however, due to multiple unknown factors, any such increase cannot be reasonably estimated.**

Assumptions:

- This legislation will result in a significant increase in state and local expenditures across various state government and political subdivisions of the state.
- Based on information from the Department of Veterans Services, this legislation would require two additional program directors and eight additional coordinators positions.
- An increase in recurring state expenditures of $616,774 (salaries $460,776 + benefits $143,998 + communications $10,000 + supplies $2,000) and a one-time increase of $12,000 (computer/etc. $1,200 x 10 positions).
- The Department of Economic and Community Development will require one additional grants analyst to meet the requirements of this legislation.
- An increase in recurring state expenditures of $72,231 (salary $55,128 + benefits $15,903 + communications $1,000 + supplies $200) and a one-time increase of $1,200 for a computer and related items.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will need one additional grants analyst to meet the requirements of this legislation.
- An increase in recurring state expenditures of $72,231 (salary $55,128 + benefits $15,903 + communications $1,000 + supplies $200) and a one-time increase of $1,200 for a computer and related items.
- It is assumed that the Department of Education and the University of Tennessee System can utilize existing resources to provide veterans with greater access to degrees, certificates, and licenses.
- A total increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 of $775,636 ($616,774 + $12,000 + $72,231 + $1,200 + $72,231 + $1,200).
- A total increase in state expenditures in FY22-23 of $761,236 ($616,774 + $72,231 + $72,231).
- This legislation could result in an additional increases in state or local expenditures to provide veterans with access to additional resources. Due to multiple unknown factors, any such increase cannot be reasonably estimated.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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