



Substitute House Bill No. 5388

Public Act No. 10-21

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS AND BILINGUAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall conduct a study of homeless female veterans in the state. The study shall include an analysis of the number of such veterans and information regarding shelter options and resources for such veterans. Not later than January 1, 2011, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs shall report the department's findings to the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 27-102l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members. The unit shall have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six service officers, and clerical personnel. The unit head and

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the service officers shall be veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or veterans who were awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the armed forces. At least one of the service officers shall be a woman having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans, who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective upon the next opening of a service officer position occurring on or after July 1, [2007] 2010, at least [one] two of the service officers shall be [an individual] individuals having bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each service officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of employment and shall be assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

Approved May 5, 2010