



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 131

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 691

Senate, March 19, 2015

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS' CRISIS LINE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-100d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide a toll-free
4 telephone number for use as (1) a clearinghouse by veterans, active
5 members of the armed forces in this state, including the National
6 Guard, and their families to obtain, in response to their requests about
7 benefits or services that may be available to such veterans, members or
8 their families, referrals to entities that provide such benefits or
9 services, and (2) a crisis line to respond to requests for assistance from
10 veterans that is modeled on the federal veterans' crisis line. The toll-
11 free telephone number shall be staffed by employees of or trained
12 volunteers working at the Department of Veterans' Affairs on
13 weekdays during regular business hours, and on weekends and
14 holidays from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	27-100d

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the Department of Veterans Affairs as the agency already has a 24 hour veteran's crisis hotline.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

Sources: Department of Veterans Affairs

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 691*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS' CRISIS LINE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide a toll-free telephone number that veterans may call in times of crisis to request assistance. The crisis line must be (1) modeled on the federal crisis line and (2) staffed by department employees or trained volunteers on weekdays during regular business hours and on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The bill also requires the department to extend to veterans and their families, an existing toll-free number they can call for information about, and referrals to, entities that provide benefits and services available to them. By law, the toll-free number is available to active U.S. Armed Forces members, including the National Guard, and their families.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Federal Veterans Crisis Line***

The federal Veterans' Crisis Line connects veterans and their families and friends with Department of Veterans' Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)