



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 45**

February Session, 2018

Senate Bill No. 223

*Senate, March 26, 2018*

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist. and SEN. MARTIN of the 31st Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ISSUES IMPACTING VETERANS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) The Chief Court
- 2 Administrator shall establish an ongoing training program for judges
- 3 regarding mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder issues
- 4 affecting veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system. The
- 5 Chief Court Administrator may consult with organizations that
- 6 advocate on behalf of veterans and with mental health professionals to
- 7 ensure that such training program includes information on any unique
- 8 characteristics of crimes committed by veterans impacted by mental
- 9 health and post-traumatic stress disorder issues.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
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**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.

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

The bill requires an ongoing training program for judges on mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder issues affecting veterans and does not result in a fiscal impact as it is anticipated that the training will be conducted by Department of Veterans' Affairs staff.

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 223*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ISSUES IMPACTING VETERANS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the chief court administrator to establish an ongoing program to train judges on the mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) issues affecting veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

The bill authorizes the administrator to consult with (1) organizations that advocate on behalf of veterans and (2) mental health professionals to ensure that the training program includes information on any unique characteristics of crimes committed by such veterans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 1 (03/14/2018)