



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 915**

LCO No. 3587



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SUICIDE BY VETERANS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study suicide by veterans. Such study shall include, but need not be  
3 limited to, an examination of the rate of suicide by veterans, the  
4 availability of mental health resources for veterans, the ease of access to  
5 mental health resources by veterans and any other information available  
6 related to suicide by veterans.

7 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
9 one of whom has expertise in mental health and one of whom has  
10 expertise in veterans' affairs;

11 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

12 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
13 Representatives;

- 14 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 15 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
16 Representatives;
- 17 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 18 (7) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's  
19 designee.
- 20 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
21 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
22 of the General Assembly.
- 23 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
24 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
25 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 26 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
27 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
28 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
29 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
30 days after the effective date of this section.
- 31 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
32 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and  
33 veterans' affairs shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 34 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report  
35 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
36 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military  
37 and veterans' affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
38 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
39 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To create a task force to study suicide by veterans.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*