

Assembly Bill No. 19--Committee
on Government Affairs

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterans; revising provisions governing the reporting of certain information relating to veterans by certain public bodies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires certain state agencies and entities to report to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs by November 30 of each year certain information relating to veterans and requires the Interagency Council to synthesize, compile and report such information by February 15 of each year to the Governor and the Legislature or, if the Legislature is not in session, to the Legislative Commission. (NRS 417.0194, 417.0195, 612.237, 622.120) **Sections 1 and 5** of this bill standardize the information collected and reported to the Interagency Council by occupational and professional licensing boards, commissions and agencies. **Section 1** also requires the Department of Veterans Services to submit certain additional information to the Interagency Council and requires the inclusion of quarterly unemployment data submitted to the Interagency Council in its report. **Section 2** of this bill reduces the frequency of the report submitted by the Interagency Council from annually to biennially in an even-numbered year, which makes the Legislative Commission the recipient of the report for the Legislative Department of the State Government.

Existing law requires the Nevada Veterans Services Commission to submit a report by November 1 of each year concerning its activities and recommendations to the Interagency Council and requires the Women Veterans Advisory Committee to submit a similar report by February 15 of each year to the Governor. (NRS 417.190, 417.330) **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill reduce the frequency of the required submission of those reports to biennially in an even-numbered year and standardizes the recipients of both reports to the Governor, the Interagency Council and the Legislative Commission. **Section 3** also changes the deadline by which the Nevada Veterans Services Commission is required to submit its report to February 15, which is the same biennial deadline as for the reports submitted by the Interagency Council and the Women Veterans Advisory Committee.

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 417.0194 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0194 1. Each state agency and regulatory body identified in subsections 2 to ~~15~~ **16**, inclusive, shall report, subject to any limitations or restrictions contained in any state or federal law governing the privacy or confidentiality of records, the data identified in subsections 2 to ~~15~~ **16**, inclusive, as applicable, to the



Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. Each state agency and regulatory body shall submit such information *for the immediately preceding fiscal year* to the Council not later than November 30 of each year and shall provide the information in aggregate and in digital form, and in a manner such that the data is capable of integration by the Council.

2. *The Department of Veterans Services shall provide annual statistics regarding:*

(a) *The distribution of expenditures in this State by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;*

(b) *The number of veterans who receive care or other services at a veterans' home operated by the State;*

(c) *The number of interments and other services provided by the veterans' cemeteries in this State;*

(d) *The total number of veterans service officers who are located in this State, by zip code;*

(e) *The number of claims filed on behalf of veterans and the family members of veterans by veterans service officers in this State;*

(f) *The amount of annual payments in the form of disability compensation and pension benefits made to veterans and the family members of veterans in this State as a result of claims filed by veterans service officers;*

(g) *The number of persons who participate as advocates for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services, by zip code;*

(h) *The number of employers in this State who participate in a program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services that facilitates the employment of veterans; and*

(i) *The number of events held in this State to provide outreach to veterans regarding benefits, claims and services, segregated by the geographical location of each event.*

3. The Department of Administration shall provide:

(a) Descriptions of and the total amount of the grant dollars received for veteran-specific programs;

(b) The total number of veterans employed by each agency in the State; and

(c) The total number of veterans with service-connected disabilities who are seeking preferences through the Purchasing Division and the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration pursuant to NRS 333.3366 and 338.13844.

~~3.1~~ 4. The State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall provide the total number of veterans receiving:



(a) Expedited certification for the grade I certification examination for wastewater treatment plant operators based on their military experience; and

(b) Any discounted fees for access to or the use of state parks.

~~14~~ **5.** The Department of Corrections shall provide:

(a) An annual overview of the monthly population of inmates in this State who are veterans; and

(b) The success rates for any efforts developed by the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

~~15~~ **6.** The Office of Economic Development shall provide an overview of the workforce that is available statewide of veterans, organized by O*NET-SOC code from the United States Department of Labor or the trade, job title, employment status, zip code, county, highest education level and driver's license class.

~~16~~ **7.** The Department of Education shall provide the distribution of dependents of service members enrolled in Nevada's public schools.

~~17~~ **8.** The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation shall provide a summary of:

(a) The average number of veterans served by a veteran employment specialist of the Department per week;

(b) The average number of initial and continuing claims for benefits filed per week by veterans pursuant to NRS 612.455 to 612.530, inclusive;

(c) The average weekly benefit received by veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS; and

(d) The average duration of a claim by claimants who are veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS.

~~18~~ **9.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have applied for and received certification as an Emergency Medical Technician-B, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic through the State Emergency Medical Systems program; and

(b) A report from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics setting forth the suicide mortality rate of veterans in this State.

~~19~~ **10.** The Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have declared themselves as a veteran and who applied for and received a commercial driver's license;

(b) The average monthly total of veteran license plates issued; and



(c) An overview of the data on veterans collected pursuant to NRS 483.292, 483.852 and 483.927.

~~H0-1~~ **11.** The Adjutant General shall provide the total number of:

(a) Members of the Nevada National Guard using waivers for each semester and identifying which schools accepted the waivers;

(b) Members of the Nevada National Guard identified by Military Occupational Specialty and zip code; and

(c) Members of the Nevada National Guard employed under a grant from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

~~H1-1~~ **12.** The Department of Public Safety shall provide the percentage of veterans in each graduating class of its academy for training peace officers.

~~H2-1~~ **13.** The Department of Taxation shall provide the total number of veterans receiving tax exemptions pursuant to NRS 361.090, 361.091, 361.155, 371.103 and 371.104.

~~H3-1~~ **14.** The Department of Wildlife shall provide the total number of:

(a) Veterans holding hunting or fishing licenses based on disability; and

(b) Service members holding hunting or fishing licenses who are residents of this State but are stationed outside this State.

~~H4-1~~ **15.** The Commission on Postsecondary Education shall provide, by industry, the total number of schools in this State approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that are serving veterans.

~~H5-1~~ **16.** Each regulatory body shall provide the total number of veterans and service members ~~applying for licensure by the regulatory body.~~ **who have:**

(a) Applied for a license from the regulatory body.

(b) Been issued a license by the regulatory body.

(c) Renewed a license with the regulatory body.

~~H6-1~~ **17.** The Council shall, upon receiving the information submitted pursuant to this section ~~H-1~~ **and NRS 612.237**, synthesize and compile the information, including any recommendations of the Council, and submit the information with the report submitted pursuant to subsection 8 of NRS 417.0195.

~~H7-1~~ **18.** As used in this section:

(a) "Regulatory body" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.060.

(b) ***"License" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.030.***

(c) "Service member" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 125C.0635.



(d) “Veterans service officer” means a person who is accredited or otherwise officially recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans with filing claims for benefits and related matters.

Sec. 2. NRS 417.0195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0195 The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs shall:

1. Identify and prioritize the needs of veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families in this State.

2. Study the coordination of the efforts of the Federal Government, State Government, local governments and private entities to meet the needs of veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families in this State.

3. Develop and disseminate best practices for improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families through policy recommendations at the state and local governmental levels.

4. Foster the development and dissemination of research and policy for improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families.

5. Develop and administer a fellowship program to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families, including, without limitation, in the areas of education, employment and wellness. The program must include, without limitation, publication of peer-reviewed materials and an annual conference.

6. Cultivate leadership opportunities for veterans.

7. Develop models for outreach to and engagement of veterans.

8. On or before February 15 of each *even-numbered* year, submit a report concerning the activities of the Council during the preceding 2 calendar ~~year,~~ *years*, including the information synthesized and compiled pursuant to NRS 417.0194 , ~~and the annual report submitted to the Council by the Nevada Veterans Services Commission pursuant to NRS 417.190,~~ and any recommendations of the Council to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to ~~the~~:

~~—(a) If the Legislature is in session, the standing committees of the Legislature which have jurisdiction of the subject matter; or~~

~~—(b) If the Legislature is not in session,~~ the Legislative Commission.

Sec. 3. NRS 417.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.190 The Nevada Veterans Services Commission shall:

1. Advise the Director and Deputy Director.



2. Prepare and submit a report, on or before ~~November 11~~ *February 15* of each *even-numbered* year, to the *Governor, the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs* ~~and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission~~. The report must, without limitation:

(a) Summarize the activities of the Commission during the preceding ~~fiscal year~~ *2 calendar years*.

(b) Make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Director and the Deputy Director regarding issues relating to veterans.

3. Make recommendations to the Governor pursuant to NRS 417.400.

Sec. 4. NRS 417.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.330 The Committee shall:

1. Support and assist the Department in:

(a) Locating, educating and advocating for all women veterans in this State;

(b) Determining the unique needs of women veterans;

(c) Conducting outreach and education through various means, including, without limitation, the Green Zone Network, the organization of statewide women veterans events, the promotion of benefits and superior health care for women veterans and the development of programs that inform pupils, business leaders and educators about the important role women play in the Armed Forces of the United States;

(d) Educating women veterans as to benefits and programs that are available to them;

(e) At least annually, making such recommendations as may be deemed necessary or advisable to the Governor, the Nevada Legislature, the office of the Director of the Department of Veterans Services and such other offices of this State as may be appropriate; and

(f) Advocating on behalf of women veterans to ensure that the programs and policies of this State and of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs remain open to women and mindful of the elements of the experience of a veteran that are unique to women.

2. Work cooperatively with the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and make recommendations concerning the needs of, and resources available to, women veterans.

3. On or before February 15 of each *even-numbered* year, submit a report concerning the activities of the Committee during the preceding *2* calendar ~~year~~ *years* and any recommendations of



the Committee to the Governor ~~††~~, *the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission.* The report must include, without limitation, information pertaining to:

- (a) The demographics of women veterans.
- (b) The contributions that women veterans have made on behalf of the United States and this State.
- (c) The unique needs of the population of women veterans.
- (d) Steps taken to reduce misinformation and improve support for programs for women veterans.

Sec. 5. NRS 622.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

622.120 1. ~~††~~ *For the purposes of NRS 417.0194*, a regulatory body ~~collects~~ *shall collect* information regarding ~~whether an applicant for a license is a veteran, the regulatory body shall prepare and submit to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs created by NRS 417.0191 an annual report which provides information on~~ the number of veterans *and service members* who have:

- (a) Applied for a license from the regulatory body.
- (b) Been issued a license by the regulatory body.
- (c) Renewed a license with the regulatory body.

2. As used in this section ~~†, “veteran”~~:

(a) *“Service member” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 125C.0635.*

(b) *“Veteran”* has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

Sec. 6. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 7. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

