

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 210—ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions related to veterans.
(BDR 37-125)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to veterans; requiring the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to appoint a veterans resource coordinator for each institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education; requiring the Director to provide certain information at transition assistance programs for veterans; setting forth certain duties for veterans service officers employed by the Department; requiring the Director to provide certain training to veterans service officers; requiring the Director to conduct a census of veterans; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Department of Veterans Services and requires the Director and Deputy Director of the Department to undertake certain activities to support veterans in this State. (NRS 417.020, 417.030, 417.090)

Section 2 of this bill requires the Director to appoint a veterans resource coordinator for each institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide certain assistance and information to veterans and members of the military who are students at the institution.

Section 3 of this bill requires the Director to present information at every transition assistance program sponsored or organized by the Department that explains the benefits, services, entitlements and opportunities available to veterans.

Section 4 of this bill requires each veterans service officer of the Department to: (1) develop cooperative working relationships with each advocate for veterans assigned to the officer by the Director; and (2) contact each such advocate on a quarterly basis.

Section 5 of this bill requires the Director to: (1) ensure each person who participates as an advocate for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department is assigned to a veterans service officer employed by



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the Department that will offer assistance to the volunteer; and (2) provide semiannual training to each veterans service officer employed by the Department regarding the benefits, services, programs and assistance available to veterans.

Section 6 of this bill requires the Director to conduct a statewide census of veterans before December 31, 2020.

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

Section 1. Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *The Director shall appoint a veterans resource coordinator for each institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education. A veterans resource coordinator appointed pursuant to this section must be a veteran.*

2. *Each veterans resource coordinator shall:*

(a) *Conduct outreach to, and provide assistance designed for, the unique needs of veterans and members of the military who are students at the institution.*

(b) *Develop and distribute information to veterans and members of the military who are students at the institution regarding benefits which are available through agencies and programs that provide services and resources to veterans and members of the military who are students.*

(c) *Provide assistance in applying for and obtaining benefits which are available through agencies and programs that provide services and resources to veterans and members of the military who are students.*

Sec. 3. *The Director or his or her designee shall present information at every transition assistance program sponsored or organized by the Department that explains the benefits, services, entitlements and opportunities available to veterans.*

Sec. 4. *Each veterans service officer of the Department shall:*

1. *Develop cooperative working relationships with each advocate for veterans assigned to the officer by the Director.*

2. *Contact each advocate for veterans assigned to the officer by the Director at least on a quarterly basis to discuss, without limitation, the services and benefits available to veterans and issues relating to veterans who are eligible for those services.*

Sec. 5. NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:
417.090 1. The Director shall:

(a) Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the military and naval forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada, their spouses, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives, in preparing,



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1 submitting and presenting any claim against the United States, or
2 any state, for adjusted compensation, hospitalization, insurance,
3 pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education or
4 rehabilitation and assist them in obtaining any aid or benefit to
5 which they may, from time to time, be entitled under the laws of the
6 United States or of any of the states.

7 (b) Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every service
8 organization recognized nationally or in this State insofar as the
9 activities of such organizations are for the benefit of veterans,
10 servicemen and servicewomen.

11 (c) Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem,
12 question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any
13 veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any
14 group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their
15 opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

16 (d) Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

17 (e) Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information
18 relating to veterans' benefits.

19 (f) Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain
20 compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability
21 compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any
22 other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the
23 United States or of any state.

24 (g) Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of
25 services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

26 (h) Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of
27 services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a
28 portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined
29 by the Director.

30 (i) Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or
31 other property that has military or historical value for safekeeping.
32 The Director may:

33 (1) Transfer such an artifact or other property to:

34 (I) The Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical
35 Society, upon its written request, if the artifact or other property has,
36 in the opinion of the requesting institution, historical value and is
37 worthy of preservation; or

38 (II) Any other governmental agency or nonprofit entity,
39 including, without limitation, a veterans' organization and the
40 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, upon its written
41 request, if the artifact or other property was not requested by the
42 Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical Society; or

43 (2) Destroy or otherwise dispose of the artifact or other
44 property.



➤ An action may not be maintained by any person against the holder or former holder of an artifact or other property because of the transfer, destruction or other disposal of the artifact or other property pursuant to this paragraph.

(j) Develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training.

(k) Create and maintain a statewide database of information relating to veterans to assist the Department in identifying and communicating with veterans and connecting veterans with benefits and opportunities for which they are eligible.

(l) Create and maintain a registry of governmental agencies and private entities that provide services and resources to veterans, service members and their families and publish a digital copy of the registry on the Internet website maintained by the Department.

(m) Ensure that each generation of veterans is recognized annually through a ceremony, information campaign or other form of public acknowledgment.

(n) Ensure that each person who participates as an advocate for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department is assigned to a veterans service officer employed by the Department that will offer assistance to the volunteer.

(o) Provide semiannual training to each veterans service officer employed by the Department regarding the benefits, services, programs and assistance available to veterans.

2. The Director shall:

(a) Establish an internal policy for guidance to employees of the Department regarding the transfer, destruction or other disposal of artifacts and other property pursuant to paragraph (i) of subsection 1; and

(b) Post the policy on the Internet website maintained by the Department.

Sec. 6. 1. The Director of the Department of Veterans Services shall on or before December 31, 2020, conduct a statewide census of veterans. The census must include, without limitation, collecting the following information from every veteran:

(a) Name, address, phone number and electronic mail address.

(b) Dates of service in the military or military reserves.

(c) The branch of the Armed Forces to which the veteran was a member.

(d) The highest rank that the veteran reached in military service.

(e) Whether the veteran incurred a service-connected disability and, if so, the percentage of such disability.



(f) Whether the veteran requested additional information regarding information or services provided by the Department and, if so, a summary of such requested information.

2. The Director or his or her designee shall provide to every veteran during the census information about:

(a) Benefits, entitlements or services that the veteran may qualify to apply for or receive; and

(b) Any event for veterans that may be of interest to the veteran.

3. Every state agency or local government shall cooperate with the Director with respect to requests for information related to veterans.

4. The Director may contract with a qualified vendor or provider of technical assistance to assist the Director in carrying out the provisions of this section.

5. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

Sec. 7. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

