



SPONSOR: Rep. Jaques & Sen. Ennis  
Reps. Baumbach, Brady, Briggs King, Bush,  
Chukwuocha, Gray, Hensley, D. Short; Sens. Hocker,  
McBride, Paradee, Pettyjohn, Poore

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 127

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1           Section 1. Amend Chapter 87, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline as  
2 follows:

3           § 8721 Delaware Commission of Veterans' Affairs — Duties and responsibilities.

4           ~~(a) The Commission shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the current appointed Veterans' Affairs~~  
5 ~~Committee.~~

6           ~~(b)~~(a) The Commission shall hire through the State Merit System employment process and employ an Executive  
7 Director, a clerical assistant and such other personnel as are necessary to perform those duties prescribed by the  
8 Commission. All employees of the Commission, including the Executive Director, shall be veterans as defined in § 8720(b)  
9 of this title. Said Executive Director shall be authorized to use the designation "Delaware Office of Veterans' Services"  
10 when promoting, performing or furthering the work of the Commission. Said Executive Director and staff shall report to the  
11 Secretary of State on all administrative matters and shall report to the Commission on all substantive matters.

12           ~~(e)~~(b) The Commission shall have the power of oversight in the administration of the Delaware State Veterans'  
13 Home and shall have the authority to promulgate such rules, regulations and policy as is necessary to the operation of a  
14 veterans' home provided, however, such rules, regulations and policy are not inconsistent with the other provisions of this  
15 chapter.

16           ~~(d)~~(c) The Commission shall have the power to operate and/or administer a Delaware Veterans' Memorial  
17 Cemetery in the State and shall have the authority to promulgate such rules and regulations governing the operation of a  
18 cemetery as it deems necessary; provided, however, such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of  
19 this chapter.

20           ~~(e)~~(d) The Commission shall establish a repository for all veterans' "Statement of Service" or similar documentary  
21 verification of active armed service.

22           ~~(f)~~(e) The Commission shall establish and administer the "Delaware Veterans Trust Fund" which will provide  
23 financial assistance or grants to honorably discharged veterans to cover costs associated with medical and dental needs;  
24 medical transportation; homelessness support; home repairs and safety modifications; household utilities; and educational  
25 or retraining programs.

26           ~~(g)~~(f) The Commission shall represent the State in concert with other states' veterans' agencies and the U.S.  
27 Veterans' Administration on matters of mutual interest and concern.

28           ~~(h)~~(g) The Commission shall coordinate with and advise all departments and agencies of the State on all matters  
29 pertaining to education, training, employment, medical and financial benefit programs for veterans, their dependents and  
30 survivors.

31           ~~(i)~~(h) The Commission shall initiate, review, and/or sponsor state legislation pertaining to veterans.

32           ~~(j)~~(i) The Commission and/or its Executive Director shall augment, not replace nor infringe upon, the functions of  
33 the service officers (representatives) of veterans' organizations; provided, however, the Commission may appoint a service  
34 officer in each county, such service officer to be accountable and responsible to the Commission.

35           ~~(k)~~(j) The Commission shall submit to the Governor and to the General Assembly an annual report of the  
36 Commission's activities and recommendations.

#### SYNOPSIS

This legislation gives authority to the Executive Director of the Delaware Commission of Veterans' Affairs to use the term "Delaware Office of Veterans' Services" when carrying out the work of the Commission. This will enable the Executive Director and other staff of the Commission to conduct business under a banner that better describes their role as providers of services to Delaware veterans and their families. Applying the name "Delaware Office of Veterans' Services" also serves to distinguish the office from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and will help alleviate confusion among members of the public.

This legislation also removes outdated language.