



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### House Bill 1231 Printer's No. 2158

Prime Sponsor: Solomon  
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

Codifies into law the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Veterans Registry.

#### **SUMMARY:**

HB 1231 would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) by establishing Section 712 (Veterans Registry) as follows:

- Requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to establish a registry of veterans living in the Commonwealth in order to provide information on federal, state and local benefits, programs and services available to veterans and to link veterans with resources that can provide assistance.
- Requires DMVA to share the veteran's information with the county veterans' affairs director of the county in which they reside, if permission is granted.
- Requires DMVA to coordinate with other state agencies to develop a paper and online system for the agencies to provide DMVA with information on veterans who wish to be registered.
- Requires DMVA to provide access to an online and paper form which contains a statement of purpose for the registry.
- The forms shall seek to obtain the following information:
  - First, middle and last name.
  - Age, gender, address, and county of residence.
  - Phone number and email address.
  - Declaration of military service.
  - Benefit and program information.
  - A signed statement or a check-off box allowing the information to be shared with the veteran's county director of veterans affairs and other state agencies.
  - The state agency that assisted the veteran.
- Requires other state agencies to:
  - Utilize the paper or online registry to identify veterans.
  - Provide assistance in completing the form.
  - Submit the paper form to DMVA within 30 days.
- Prohibits the use of information in the registry from being sold for commercial purposes and shall be exempt from the Right to Know Law.
- Requires a report to be issued by January 1, 2018 (and each year thereafter), to the Chairmen of both the Senate and the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees. The report shall include the following information:

- Total number of veterans registered.
- The number of registrations received by each state agency.
- The number of veterans who decline to be included in the registry from each state agency.
- Outreach expenses incurred by DMVA.
- Allows the Adjutant General to adopt and promulgate guidelines.

Effective Date: 60 Days.

**BILL HISTORY:**

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has implemented a Veterans Registry administratively. This is the first session legislation has been introduced codifying the Veterans Registry into law.

Prepared by: N. Silcox 10/16/2017