

1 AN ACT relating to veteran employment opportunity, making an appropriation
2 therefore, and declaring an emergency.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 151B IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) (a) *The Veteran Accelerated Licensing for Occupational Recruitment Program*
7 *is hereby created in the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet*
8 *and shall be attached to the Department of Workforce Investment for*
9 *administrative purposes;*

10 (b) *The program shall work to accelerate veteran employment and ensure*
11 *veterans and transitioning service members are matched with resources,*
12 *training, and skills to increase their rate of employment in the*
13 *Commonwealth; and*

14 (c) *The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet shall provide oversight*
15 *to the program. The staff shall have experience in translating military*
16 *occupational specialties into civilian occupations.*

17 (2) *The Veteran Accelerated Licensing for Occupational Recruitment Program shall:*

18 (a) *Identify military occupational specialties that correlate with Kentucky*
19 *civilian occupations;*

20 (b) *Create a pathway to facilitate accelerated licensing or certification using the*
21 *military occupational specialties;*

22 (c) *Connect Kentucky employers with transitioning service members and*
23 *veterans;*

24 (d) *Market trained and licensed veterans to Kentucky employers; and*

25 (e) *Provide case management to transitioning service members and veterans.*

26 (3) *The purpose of the program shall be to:*

27 (a) *Create career pathways for veterans by translating military occupational*

- 1 specialties into civilian occupations;
- 2 (b) Recruit transitioning service members and veterans to Kentucky and use the
- 3 created career pathways to market skilled veterans to employers; and
- 4 (c) Provide facilities, as appropriate, in support of the program through grants
- 5 and other sources of funding.
- 6 (5) By September 1 of each year, the program shall prepare an annual report of its
- 7 activities and submit the report to the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans,
- 8 Military Affairs, and Public Protection. The report shall include its work in the
- 9 prior fiscal year, including but not limited to the:
- 10 (a) Activities and achievements of the program carrying out the purpose of this
- 11 section;
- 12 (b) Number of veterans and employers served by the program; and
- 13 (c) Specific policy recommendations to assist the program in carrying out the
- 14 purpose of this section.
- 15 (6) The program is authorized to accept and expend moneys as may be appropriated
- 16 from time to time by the General Assembly and any moneys that may be received
- 17 from any source, including donations and grants.
- 18 (7) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the
- 19 provisions of this section.
- 20 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 151B IS CREATED TO
- 21 READ AS FOLLOWS:
- 22 (1) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a trust and agency account to be
- 23 known as the VALOR fund. The fund shall consist of moneys received from the
- 24 state appropriations, gifts, grants, and federal funds.
- 25 (2) The fund shall be administered by the Department of Workforce Investment.
- 26 (3) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the Veteran Accelerated
- 27 Licensing for Occupational Recruitment Program and for no other purpose.

1 (4) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal
2 year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

3 (5) Any interest earnings of the fund shall become a part of the fund and shall not
4 lapse.

5 (6) Moneys deposited in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set for in
6 this section and shall not be appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly
7 for any other purpose.

8 →Section 3. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys in the amount of
9 \$960,000 in the fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Education and Workforce Development
10 Cabinet for the creation of the Veteran Accelerated Licensing for Occupational
11 Recruitment Program in the Department of Workforce Investment. Notwithstanding KRS
12 45.229, the General Fund appropriation in the fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Veteran
13 Accelerated Licensing for Occupational Recruitment Program shall not lapse and shall
14 carry forward for expenditure in the fiscal year 2023-2024.

15 →Section 4. Whereas veteran employment is a priority within the
16 Commonwealth, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its
17 passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.