

SENATE No. 2360

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the women's veterans network.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John C. Velis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden and Hampshire

SENATE No. 2360

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2360) of John C. Velis for legislation to establish the women's veterans network. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act establishing the women's veterans network.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 115 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 15 the
2 following section:-

3 WOMEN’S VETERANS NETWORK.

4 Section 16. (a) There shall be within the department of veterans' services a women’s
5 veterans network. The office shall: (1) perform outreach to improve women veterans' awareness
6 of eligibility for federal and state veterans' services and benefits; (2) review programs, research
7 projects, and other initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of women veterans; (3) make
8 recommendations to the secretary of veterans’ services to improve benefits and services for
9 women veterans; (4) incorporate women veterans' issues in strategic planning concerning
10 benefits and services; (5) create and distribute women veterans benefits information; and (6)
11 create online resources for women veterans. The office shall employ a women’s veterans
12 coordinator to assist in the programming and outreach to women veterans. Said employee shall

13 work with the Department of Veterans' Services, the Women Veterans' Network Steering
14 Committee, and Veteran Services Officers to develop documentation that explains benefits
15 available to women veterans and how to access said benefits. Benefit documents shall be
16 available on the department's open website and said benefits shall be disseminated to women
17 veterans.

18 (b) Annually, not later than November 1, the office shall submit a report to the general
19 court on progress made in identification and outreach to women veterans residing in
20 Massachusetts. The report shall include findings relative to, but not limited to: (i) demographics
21 of women veterans identified in Massachusetts; (ii) summation of veteran outreach events
22 designed to connect women veterans; and (iii) documents provided to said veterans. The office
23 shall submit the report to the governor and to the clerks of the house of representatives and
24 senate.