

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. B. No. 213

Senator Antani

Cosponsors: Senators Hackett, Huffman, S.



A BILL

To amend sections 175.052, 3301.61, 3333.164, 1
3345.421, 3735.42, 5101.27, 5119.42, 5120.15, 2
5902.02, and 5903.03 and to enact sections 3
122.924 and 4123.071 of the Revised Code to 4
require several state and licensing agencies to 5
ask about veteran status, to provide this 6
information to the Department of Veterans 7
Services, and to grant that Department authority 8
to use this information to connect veterans with 9
their earned benefits. 10

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

Section 1. That sections 175.052, 3301.61, 3333.164, 11
3345.421, 3735.42, 5101.27, 5119.42, 5120.15, 5902.02, and 12
5903.03 be amended and sections 122.924 and 4123.071 of the 13
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 14

Sec. 122.924. (A) As used in this section, "armed forces" 15
has the same meaning as in section 5903.01 of the Revised Code. 16

(B) The director of development shall develop, maintain, 17
and improve a resource, which shall include a printed 18

publication, that informs members of the armed forces and their 19
dependents of the rights of, and the benefits available to, 20
service members and their dependents. The director shall 21
distribute the resource to every individual who responds 22
affirmatively to a question posed in accordance with section 23
175.052, 3735.42, 4123.071, 5119.42, or 5120.15 of the Revised 24
Code. 25

(C) The director of development may enter into agreements 26
with state and federal agencies, with agencies of political 27
subdivisions, with state and local instrumentalities, and with 28
private entities as necessary to make the resource as complete 29
as is possible. 30

Sec. 175.052. (A) As used in this section, "armed forces," 31
"service member," and "veteran" have the meanings defined in 32
section 5903.01 of the Revised Code. 33

(B) The Ohio housing finance agency, in providing 34
homeownership program assistance, shall give preference to 35
grants or loans for activities that provide housing and housing 36
assistance to honorably discharged veterans. 37

(C) An application for any assistance or service provided 38
under this chapter shall contain the following questions: "Are 39
you currently serving, or have you ever served, in the armed 40
forces? Is a member of your immediate family currently serving, 41
or have they ever served, in the armed forces?" The application 42
shall indicate that an applicant is not required to answer the 43
questions set forth in this division. 44

(D) The Ohio housing finance agency shall provide the 45
name, address, and military status of each veteran receiving 46
assistance or service under this section to the department of 47

veterans services for official government purposes regarding 48
benefits and services, and shall provide the name, address, and 49
military status of each service member receiving assistance or 50
service under this section to the department of development for 51
official government purposes regarding benefits and services. 52

Sec. 3301.61. (A) The state council on educational 53
opportunity for military children is hereby established within 54
the department of education. The council shall consist of the 55
following members: 56

(1) The superintendent of public instruction or the 57
superintendent's designee; 58

(2) The director of veterans services or the director's 59
designee; 60

(3) The superintendent of a school district that has a 61
high concentration of children of military families, appointed 62
by the governor; 63

(4) A representative of a military installation located in 64
this state, appointed by the governor; 65

(5) A representative of the governor's office, appointed 66
by the governor; 67

(6) Four members of the general assembly, appointed as 68
follows: 69

(a) One member of the house of representatives appointed 70
by the speaker of the house of representatives; 71

(b) One member of the house of representatives appointed 72
by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 73

(c) One member of the senate appointed by the president of 74

the senate;	75
(d) One member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate.	76 77
(7) The compact commissioner appointed under section 3301.62 of the Revised Code;	78 79
(8) The military family education liaison appointed under section 3301.63 of the Revised Code;	80 81
(9) Other members appointed in the manner prescribed by and seated at the discretion of the voting members of the council.	82 83 84
The members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the initial appointments.	85 86 87
The members appointed under divisions (A) (6) to (9) of this section shall be nonvoting members of the council.	88 89
The members of the council shall serve without compensation.	90 91
(B) The council shall oversee and provide coordination for the state's participation in and compliance with the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children, as ratified by section 3301.60 of the Revised Code. <u>The council shall cooperate with the state board of education, the department of development, and the department of veterans services to develop, conduct, and maintain outreach programs that connect insurable dependents, as defined in division (B) (10) of 38 U.S.C. 1965, with their earned benefits and services.</u>	92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
(C) The department of education shall provide staff support for the council.	101 102

(D) Sections 101.82 to 101.87 of the Revised Code do not apply to the council.	103 104
(E) As used in this section, "children of military families" and "military installation" have the same meanings as in Article II of the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.	105 106 107 108
Sec. 3333.164. (A) As used in this section, "state institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.	109 110 111
(B) Not later than December 31, 2014, the chancellor of higher education shall do all of the following with regard to the awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework:	112 113 114 115
(1) Develop a set of standards and procedures for state institutions of higher education to utilize in the granting of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework;	116 117 118 119
(2) Create a military articulation and transfer assurance guide for college credit that is earned through military training, experience, and coursework. The chancellor shall use the current articulation and transfer policy adopted pursuant to section 3333.16 of the Revised Code as a model in developing this guide.	120 121 122 123 124 125
(3) Create a web site that contains information related to the awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework. The web site shall include both of the following:	126 127 128 129
(a) Standardized resources that address frequently asked questions regarding the awarding of such credit and related	130 131

issues;	132
(b) A statewide database that shows how specified military training, experience, and coursework translates to college credit.	133 134 135
(4) Develop a statewide training program that prepares faculty and staff of state institutions of higher education to evaluate various military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent credit. The training program shall incorporate the best practices of awarding credit for military experiences, including both the recommendations of the American council on education and the standards developed by the council for adult and experiential learning.	136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143
(C) Beginning on July 1, 2015, state institutions of higher education shall ensure that appropriate equivalent credit is awarded for military training, experience, and coursework that meet the standards developed by the chancellor pursuant to this section.	144 145 146 147 148
<u>(D) The chancellor shall cooperate with the department of development and the department of veterans services to inform eligible enrolled students of their earned benefits and services.</u>	149 150 151 152
Sec. 3345.421. Not later than December 31, 2014, the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall do all of the following:	153 154 155 156
(A) Designate at least one person employed by the institution to serve as the contact person for veterans and service member affairs. Such a person shall assist and advise veterans and service members on issues related to earning	157 158 159 160

college credit for military training, experience, and 161
coursework. 162

(B) Adopt a policy regarding the support and assistance 163
the institution will provide to veterans and service members, 164
including cooperating with the department of development and the 165
department of veterans services to inform eligible enrolled 166
students of their earned benefits and services. 167

(C) Allow for the establishment of a student-led group on 168
campus for student service members and veterans and encourage 169
other service member- and veteran-friendly organizations. 170

(D) Integrate existing career services to create and 171
encourage meaningful collaborative relationships between student 172
service members and veterans and alumni of the institution, that 173
links student service members and veterans with prospective 174
employers, and that provides student service members and 175
veterans with social opportunities; and, if the institution has 176
career services programs, encourage the responsible office to 177
seek and promote partnership opportunities for internships and 178
employment of student service members and veterans with state, 179
local, national, and international employers. 180

(E) Survey student service members and veterans to 181
identify their needs and challenges and make the survey 182
available to faculty and staff at the state institution of 183
higher education. And periodically conduct follow-up surveys, at 184
a frequency determined by the board, to gauge the institution's 185
progress toward meeting identified needs and challenges. 186

The chancellor of higher education shall provide guidance 187
to state institutions of higher education in their compliance 188
with this section, including the recommendation of standardized 189

policies on support and assistance to veterans and service 190
members. 191

The person or persons designated under division (A) of 192
this section shall not be a person currently designated by the 193
institution as a veterans administration certifying official. 194

Sec. 3735.42. (A) Except as provided in any contract for 195
financial assistance with the federal government in the 196
selection of tenants for housing projects, a metropolitan 197
housing authority shall give preference, as among applicants 198
equally in need and eligible for occupancy of the dwelling and 199
at the rent involved, to families of veterans and persons 200
serving in the active military or naval service of the United 201
States, including families of deceased veterans or deceased 202
persons who were so serving at the time of death. 203

(B) As used in this section: 204

(1) "Veteran" means either of the following: 205

(a) A person who has served in the active military or 206
naval service of the United States and who was discharged or 207
released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; 208

(b) A person who served as a member of the United States 209
merchant marine and to whom either of the following applies: 210

(i) The person has an honorable report of separation from 211
active duty military service, form DD214 or DD215. 212

(ii) The person served in the United States merchant 213
marine between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, and died 214
on active duty while serving in a war zone during that period of 215
service. 216

(2) "United States merchant marine" includes the United 217

States army transport service and the United States naval 218
transport service. 219

(3) "Armed forces" has the same meaning as in section 220
5903.01 of the Revised Code. 221

(C) An application for any service provided under this 222
chapter shall contain the following questions: "Are you 223
currently serving, or have you ever served, in the armed forces? 224
Is a member of your immediate family currently serving, or have 225
they ever served, in the armed forces?" The application shall 226
indicate that an applicant is not required to answer the 227
questions set forth in this division. 228

(D) The director of development shall keep the information 229
submitted under this section, including the name, address, and 230
military status of an applicant, in a database. The director of 231
development shall share the information with the department of 232
veterans services upon the request of the department of veterans 233
services. Information shared under this section may be used by 234
the department of veterans services to develop outreach programs 235
for veterans and their families. 236

Sec. 4123.071. (A) As used in this section, "armed forces" 237
and "veteran" have the meanings defined in section 5903.01 of 238
the Revised Code. 239

(B) An application for any assistance or service provided 240
under this chapter shall contain the following questions: "Are 241
you currently serving, or have you ever served, in the armed 242
forces? Is a member of your immediate family currently serving, 243
or have they ever served, in the armed forces?" The application 244
shall indicate that an applicant is not required to answer the 245
questions set forth in this division. 246

(C) The administrator of the bureau of workers' compensation shall keep the information submitted under this section, including the name, address, and military status of each applicant, in a database. The administrator of the bureau of workers' compensation shall share the information with the department of development and the department of veterans services upon the request of the respective department head. Information shared under this section may be used by the department of development and the department of veterans services to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families.

Sec. 5101.27. (A) Except as permitted by this section, section 5101.273, 5101.28, or 5101.29 of the Revised Code, or rules adopted under section 5101.30 of the Revised Code, or when required by federal law, no person or government entity shall knowingly solicit, disclose, receive, use, permit the use of, or participate in the use of any information regarding a public assistance recipient for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of a public assistance program.

(B) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department of job and family services and county agencies shall do all of the following:

(1) Release information regarding a public assistance recipient for purposes directly connected to the administration of the program to a government entity responsible for administering that public assistance program;

(2) Provide information regarding a public assistance recipient to a law enforcement agency for the purpose of any investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding relating to the administration of that public assistance

program;	277
(3) Provide, for purposes directly connected to the administration of a program that assists needy individuals with the costs of public utility services, information regarding a recipient of financial assistance provided under a program administered by the department or a county agency pursuant to Chapter 5107. or 5108. of the Revised Code to an entity administering the public utility services program.	278 279 280 281 282 283 284
<u>(4) Release information regarding a public assistance recipient, including the name, address, and military status of a recipient, to the department of veterans services for the purpose outlined in division (N) (2) of section 5902.02 of the Revised Code.</u>	285 286 287 288 289
<u>(5) Release information regarding a public assistance recipient, including the name, address, and military status of a recipient, to the department of development for the purpose outlined in section 122.924 of the Revised Code.</u>	290 291 292 293
(C) (1) To the extent permitted by federal law and subject to division (C) (2) of this section, the department of job and family services shall release, for purposes directly connected to a public health investigation related to section 3301.531 or 5104.037 of the Revised Code, information regarding a public assistance recipient who receives publicly funded child care, so long as all of the following conditions are met:	294 295 296 297 298 299 300
(a) The department of health or the tuberculosis control unit has initiated a public health investigation related to section 3301.531 or 5104.037 of the Revised Code and has assessed the investigation as an emergency.	301 302 303 304
(b) The department of health or the tuberculosis control	305

unit has notified the department of job and family services 306
about the investigation and has requested that the department of 307
job and family services release the information for purposes of 308
the investigation. 309

(c) The department of job and family services is unable to 310
timely obtain voluntary, written authorization that complies 311
with section 5101.272 of the Revised Code. 312

(2) If the conditions specified in division (C)(1) of this 313
section are met, the department of job and family services shall 314
release to the department of health or the tuberculosis control 315
unit the minimum information necessary to fulfill the needs of 316
the department of health or tuberculosis control unit related to 317
the public health investigation. 318

(3) If the department of job and family services releases 319
information pursuant to division (C) of this section, it shall 320
immediately notify the public assistance recipient. 321

(D) To the extent permitted by federal law and section 322
1347.08 of the Revised Code, the department and county agencies 323
shall provide access to information regarding a public 324
assistance recipient to all of the following: 325

(1) The recipient; 326

(2) The authorized representative; 327

(3) The legal guardian of the recipient; 328

(4) The attorney of the recipient, if the attorney has 329
written authorization that complies with section 5101.272 of the 330
Revised Code from the recipient. 331

(E) To the extent permitted by federal law and subject to 332
division (F) of this section, the department and county agencies 333

may do both of the following:	334
(1) Release information about a public assistance recipient if the recipient gives voluntary, written authorization that complies with section 5101.272 of the Revised Code;	335 336 337 338
(2) Release information regarding a public assistance recipient to a state, federal, or federally assisted program that provides cash or in-kind assistance or services directly to individuals based on need or for the purpose of protecting children to a government entity responsible for administering a children's protective services program.	339 340 341 342 343 344
(F) Except when the release is required by division (B), (C), or (D) of this section or is authorized by division (E) (2) of this section, the department or county agency shall release the information only in accordance with the authorization. The department or county agency shall provide, at no cost, a copy of each written authorization to the individual who signed it.	345 346 347 348 349 350
(G) The department of job and family services may adopt rules defining "authorized representative" for purposes of division (D) (2) of this section.	351 352 353
Sec. 5119.42. (A) As used in this section, "private,"	354
<u>"Private, nonprofit organization"</u> means a private association, organization, corporation, or other entity that is tax exempt under section 501(a) and described in section 501(c) of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 501.	355 356 357 358 359
<u>"Armed forces" and "veteran" have the meanings defined in section 5903.01 of the Revised Code.</u>	360 361

(B) To the extent funds are available and on application 362
by boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health 363
services, the director of mental health and addiction services 364
may approve state reimbursement of, or state grants for, 365
community construction programs including residential housing 366
for severely mentally disabled persons and persons with 367
substance use disorders. The director may also approve an 368
application for reimbursement or a grant for such programs 369
submitted by other governmental entities or by private, 370
nonprofit organizations, after the application has been reviewed 371
and recommended for approval or disapproval by the board of 372
alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services for the 373
district from which the application came, and the application is 374
consistent with the board's approved community addiction and 375
mental health plan submitted under division (A) of section 376
340.03 of the Revised Code and the board's approved budget and 377
list of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery 378
supports submitted under divisions (A) and (B) of section 340.08 379
of the Revised Code. 380

(C) (1) The director of mental health and addiction 381
services shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of 382
the Revised Code that specify procedures for applying for state 383
reimbursement of and state grants for community construction 384
programs, including residential housing for severely mentally 385
disabled persons and persons with substance use disorders and 386
procedures and criteria for approval of such reimbursement and 387
grants. 388

(2) The director of mental health and addiction services 389
shall not approve state reimbursement or a state grant unless 390
all of the following conditions are met: 391

(a) The applicant includes with the application a plan 392
specifying the services, in addition to housing, that will be 393
provided to persons who will reside in the residential housing. 394
Services specified may include any of the services described in 395
section 340.09 of the Revised Code. 396

(b) The director is satisfied that the residential housing 397
for severely mentally disabled persons will be developed to 398
promote the maximum practical integration of severely mentally 399
disabled persons with persons at the same site who are not 400
severely mentally disabled. 401

(c) The use of any funds distributed pursuant to the 402
reimbursement or grant will not subject any obligation from 403
which the funds are derived to federal income taxation. 404

(3) The director may enter into an agreement establishing 405
terms for any reimbursement or grant approved under this 406
division with the organization, board, or other government 407
entity that is the recipient of the reimbursement or grant. Any 408
such agreement is subject to any covenant or agreement 409
pertaining to any obligation issued to provide funds for the 410
reimbursement or grant. 411

(D) A person residing in residential housing funded at 412
least in part by assistance provided by the department of mental 413
health and addiction services under this section shall be asked 414
the following questions: "Are you currently serving, or have you 415
ever served, in the armed forces? Is a member of your immediate 416
family currently serving, or have they ever served, in the armed 417
forces?" The recipient shall not be required to answer the 418
questions set forth in this division. 419

(E) The director of mental health and addiction services 420

shall keep the information submitted under this section, 421
including the name, address, and military status of a person, in 422
a database. The director of mental health and addiction services 423
shall share the information with the department of veterans 424
services upon the request of the department of veterans 425
services. The director of mental health and addiction services 426
shall share the information with the department of development 427
upon the request of the department of development. Information 428
shared under this section may be used by the department of 429
veterans services and the department of development to develop 430
outreach programs for veterans, service members, and their 431
families. 432

Sec. 5120.15. (A) As used in this section, "armed forces" 433
and "veteran" have the meanings defined in section 5903.01 of 434
the Revised Code. 435

(B) The department of rehabilitation and correction shall 436
regulate the admission and discharge of inmates in the 437
institutions described in section 5120.05 of the Revised Code. 438

(C) During the admission process of an inmate, the inmate 439
shall be asked: "Have you ever served in the armed forces? Is a 440
member of your immediate family currently serving, or have they 441
ever served, in the armed forces?" The inmate shall be informed 442
that the inmate is not required to answer the question set forth 443
in this division. 444

(D) The director of rehabilitation and correction shall 445
keep the information submitted under this section, including the 446
name, location, and military status of each inmate, in a 447
database. The director of rehabilitation and correction shall 448
share the information with the department of development or the 449
department of veterans services upon the request of the 450

respective department head. Information shared under this 451
section may be used by the department of veterans services to 452
develop outreach programs for veterans and their families. 453
Information shared under this section may be used by the 454
department of development for the purpose outlined in section 455
122.924 of the Revised Code. 456

Sec. 5902.02. The duties of the director of veterans 457
services shall include the following: 458

(A) Furnishing the veterans service commissions of all 459
counties of the state copies of the state laws, rules, and 460
legislation relating to the operation of the commissions and 461
their offices; 462

(B) Upon application, assisting the general public in 463
obtaining records of vital statistics pertaining to veterans or 464
their dependents; 465

(C) Adopting rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised 466
Code pertaining to minimum qualifications for hiring, 467
certifying, and accrediting county veterans service officers, 468
pertaining to their required duties, and pertaining to 469
revocation of the certification of county veterans service 470
officers; 471

(D) Adopting rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised 472
Code for the education, training, certification, and duties of 473
veterans service commissioners and for the revocation of the 474
certification of a veterans service commissioner; 475

(E) Developing and monitoring programs and agreements 476
enhancing employment and training for veterans in single or 477
multiple county areas; 478

(F) Developing and monitoring programs and agreements to 479

enable county veterans service commissions to address 480
homelessness, indigency, and other veteran-related issues 481
individually or jointly; 482

(G) Developing and monitoring programs and agreements to 483
enable state agencies, individually or jointly, that provide 484
services to veterans, including the veterans' homes operated 485
under Chapter 5907. of the Revised Code and the director of job 486
and family services, to address homelessness, indigency, 487
employment, and other veteran-related issues; 488

(H) Establishing and providing statistical reporting 489
formats and procedures for county veterans service commissions; 490

(I) Publishing electronically a listing of county veterans 491
service offices and county veterans service commissioners. The 492
listing shall include the expiration dates of commission 493
members' terms of office and the organizations they represent; 494
the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of county veterans 495
service offices; and the addresses and telephone numbers of the 496
Ohio offices and headquarters of state and national veterans 497
service organizations. 498

(J) Establishing a veterans advisory committee to advise 499
and assist the department of veterans services in its duties. 500
Members shall include a member of the national guard association 501
of the United States who is a resident of this state, a member 502
of the military officers association of America who is a 503
resident of this state, a state representative of 504
congressionally chartered veterans organizations referred to in 505
section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, a representative of any 506
other congressionally chartered state veterans organization that 507
has at least one veterans service commissioner in the state, 508
three representatives of the Ohio state association of county 509

veterans service commissioners, who shall have a combined vote 510
of one, three representatives of the state association of county 511
veterans service officers, who shall have a combined vote of 512
one, one representative of the county commissioners association 513
of Ohio, who shall be a county commissioner not from the same 514
county as any of the other county representatives, a 515
representative of the advisory committee on women veterans, a 516
representative of a labor organization, and a representative of 517
the office of the attorney general. The department of veterans 518
services shall submit to the advisory committee proposed rules 519
for the committee's operation. The committee may review and 520
revise these proposed rules prior to submitting them to the 521
joint committee on agency rule review. 522

(K) Adopting, with the advice and assistance of the 523
veterans advisory committee, policy and procedural guidelines 524
that the veterans service commissions shall adhere to in the 525
development and implementation of rules, policies, procedures, 526
and guidelines for the administration of Chapter 5901. of the 527
Revised Code. The department of veterans services shall adopt no 528
guidelines or rules regulating the purposes, scope, duration, or 529
amounts of financial assistance provided to applicants pursuant 530
to sections 5901.01 to 5901.15 of the Revised Code. The director 531
of veterans services may obtain opinions from the office of the 532
attorney general regarding rules, policies, procedures, and 533
guidelines of the veterans service commissions and may enforce 534
compliance with Chapter 5901. of the Revised Code. 535

(L) Receiving copies of form DD214 filed in accordance 536
with the director's guidelines adopted under division (L) of 537
this section from members of veterans service commissions 538
appointed under section 5901.02 and from county veterans service 539
officers employed under section 5901.07 of the Revised Code; 540

(M) Developing and maintaining and improving a resource, 541
such as a telephone answering point or a web site, by means of 542
which veterans and their dependents, through a single portal, 543
can access multiple sources of information and interaction with 544
regard to the rights of, and the benefits available to, veterans 545
and their dependents. The director of veterans services may 546
enter into agreements with state and federal agencies, with 547
agencies of political subdivisions, with state and local 548
instrumentalities, and with private entities as necessary to 549
make the resource as complete as is possible. 550

(N) (1) Planning, organizing, advertising, and conducting 551
outreach efforts, such as conferences and fairs, at which 552
veterans and their dependents may meet, learn about the 553
organization and operation of the department of veterans 554
services and of veterans service commissions, and obtain 555
information about the rights of, and the benefits and services 556
available to, veterans and their dependents; 557

(2) Developing, conducting, and maintaining an outreach 558
program in accordance with sections 175.052, 3301.61, 3333.96, 559
3345.421, 3735.42, 4123.071, 5101.50, 5119.142, 5120.15, and 560
5903.03 of the Revised Code for the purpose of connecting 561
veterans with their earned benefits and services; 562

(O) Advertising, in print, on radio and television, and 563
otherwise, the rights of, and the benefits and services 564
available to, veterans and their dependents; 565

(P) Developing and advocating improved benefits and 566
services for, and improved delivery of benefits and services to, 567
veterans and their dependents; 568

(Q) Searching for, identifying, and reviewing statutory 569

and administrative policies that relate to veterans and their dependents and reporting to the general assembly statutory and administrative policies that should be consolidated in whole or in part within the organization of the department of veterans services to unify funding, delivery, and accounting of statutory and administrative policy expressions that relate particularly to veterans and their dependents;

(R) Encouraging veterans service commissions to innovate and otherwise to improve efficiency in delivering benefits and services to veterans and their dependents and to report successful innovations and efficiencies to the director of veterans services;

(S) Publishing and encouraging adoption of successful innovations and efficiencies veterans service commissions have achieved in delivering benefits and services to veterans and their dependents;

(T) Establishing advisory committees, in addition to the veterans advisory committee established under division (K) of this section, on veterans issues;

(U) Developing and maintaining a relationship with the United States department of veterans affairs, seeking optimal federal benefits and services for Ohio veterans and their dependents, and encouraging veterans service commissions to maximize the federal benefits and services to which veterans and their dependents are entitled;

(V) Developing and maintaining relationships with the several veterans organizations, encouraging the organizations in their efforts at assisting veterans and their dependents, and advocating for adequate state subsidization of the

organizations; 599

(W) Requiring the several veterans organizations that 600
receive funding from the state annually, not later than the 601
thirtieth day of July, to report to the director of veterans 602
services and prescribing the form and content of the report; 603

(X) Reviewing the reports submitted to the director under 604
division (W) of this section within thirty days of receipt and 605
informing the veterans organization of any deficiencies that 606
exist in the organization's report and that funding will not be 607
released until the deficiencies have been corrected and a 608
satisfactory report submitted; 609

(Y) Releasing funds and processing payments to veterans 610
organizations when a report submitted to the director under 611
division (W) of this section has been reviewed and determined to 612
be satisfactory; 613

(Z) Furnishing copies of all reports that the director of 614
veterans services has determined have been submitted 615
satisfactorily under division (W) of this section to the 616
chairperson of the finance committees of the general assembly; 617

(AA) Investigating complaints against county veterans 618
services commissioners and county veterans service officers if 619
the director reasonably believes the investigation to be 620
appropriate and necessary; 621

(BB) Developing and maintaining a web site that is 622
accessible by veterans and their dependents and provides a link 623
to the web site of each state agency that issues a license, 624
certificate, or other authorization permitting an individual to 625
engage in an occupation or occupational activity; 626

(CC) Encouraging state agencies to conduct outreach 627

efforts through which veterans and their dependents can learn 628
about available job and education benefits; 629

(DD) Informing state agencies about changes in statutes 630
and rules that affect veterans and their dependents; 631

(EE) Assisting licensing agencies in adopting rules under 632
section 5903.03 of the Revised Code; 633

(FF) Administering the provision of grants from the 634
military injury relief fund under section 5902.05 of the Revised 635
Code; 636

(GG) Taking any other actions required by this chapter. 637

Sec. 5903.03. (A) As used in this section, "military 638
program of training" means a training program of the armed 639
forces. 640

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to 641
the contrary, a licensing agency shall consider an applicant for 642
a license: 643

(1) To have met the educational requirement for that 644
license if the applicant has completed a military program of 645
training and has been awarded a military primary specialty at a 646
level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the 647
educational requirement for that license; and 648

(2) To have met the experience requirement for that 649
license if the applicant has served in that military primary 650
specialty under honorable conditions for a period of time that 651
is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the experience 652
requirement for that license. 653

(C) Each licensing agency, not later than June 30, 2014, 654
shall adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 655

regarding which military programs of training, military primary 656
specialties, and lengths of service are substantially equivalent 657
to or exceed the educational and experience requirements for 658
each license that agency issues. 659

(D) A licensing agency described in this section shall 660
provide the name, address, and military status of an individual 661
applying for a credential under this section to the department 662
of development or the department of veterans services, depending 663
on the individual's military status, for official government 664
purposes regarding benefits and services. 665

Section 2. That existing sections 175.052, 3301.61, 666
3333.164, 3345.421, 3735.42, 5101.27, 5119.42, 5120.15, 5902.02, 667
and 5903.03 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 668