



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

# SENATE BILL 62: Veterans' Affairs Commission/Strategic Plan.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs	<b>Date:</b>	May 18, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. D. Davis, Brown	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** Senate Bill 62 would require the Veterans' Affairs Commission to adopt a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance benefits for veterans and their dependents. The act is effective when it becomes law.

**CURRENT LAW:** The Veterans' Affairs Commission, established under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, is a commission within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Commission advises the Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs on matters relating to the affairs of veterans in North Carolina, reviews and makes recommendations of existing programs for veterans and their dependents in the State, promulgates rules for the awarding of scholarships for children of North Carolina veterans, and promulgates rules concerning the awarding of the North Carolina Services Medal to all veterans who have served in any period of war.

The Commission consists of one voting member from each congressional district all of whom must be veterans. Members are appointed by the Governor for four year terms. The Governor designates a chairman and vice chairman who serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 62 would add a new section G.S. 143B-1221.1 to Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes requiring the Veterans' Affairs Commission to adopt a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance benefits for veterans and their dependents. The strategic plan must include the following objectives:

- Improving, for veterans and their dependents, accessibility of and satisfaction with health, education, training, counseling, financial, and burial benefits and services.
- Educating and empowering veterans and their dependents through outreach and advocacy.
- Any other topic related to enhancing benefits for veterans and their dependents.

The Commission must adopt a strategic plan by November 1, 2018 and update it every four years. It must also conduct an annual review of the State's performance under the plan and submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government. The first annual review and report must be completed by November 1, 2019.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act is effective when it becomes law.

Staff Attorney Brad Krehely substantially contributed to this bill summary.

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