



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

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	May 18, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. D. Davis, Brown	Prepared by:	Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Third Edition		

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 62 would require the Veterans' Affairs Commission (Commission) to adopt a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance benefits for veterans and their dependents and to require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to study program outcomes for military veterans and their families. 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:

Section 1: 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.

Section 2: Would require the Commission to adopt a strategic plan by November 1, 2018, and update it every four years. It would also be required to 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 would be required to be completed by November 1, 2019.

Section 3: Would require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to study potential methods for documenting, collecting, and analyzing the outcomes for individual military veterans and their families in this State of the various programs designed to serve them and to report its findings and

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recommendations to the chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on General Government no later than December 1, 2017.

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

Staff Attorney Brad Krehely substantially contributed to this bill summary.