



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

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	February 24, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. D. Davis, Brown	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S62-CSRN-1		Committee Co-Counsel

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. The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) makes technical changes to correct a citation and to provide that the first update of the strategic plan must be made by November 1, 2022 (four years from the date on which the initial strategic plan must be adopted).*

CURRENT LAW: The Veterans' Affairs Commission is part of 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 shall 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: The PCS for Senate Bill 62 would require 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. Each year, the Commission must review the State's performance and must report the results annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government. The first annual review and report must be completed by November 1, 2019.

The Commission must update the strategic plan every four years; the first update must be completed by November 1, 2022.

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

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