

No. 103

AN ACT

HB 1661

Directing the Department of Military Affairs to establish one-stop information and assistance centers for veterans and making an appropriation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Statement of Purpose.—The Pennsylvania General Assembly recognizes that a large number of Pennsylvania veterans, many from the Vietnam War, have not taken advantage of benefits that are available to them as veterans. It is the intent of this body to assist these veterans in acquiring educational and technical skills, adequate housing, and securing employment in fields related to their skills and potential. In recognition of the immediacy of this problem and of their duty to fulfill this need the General Assembly establishes one-stop information and assistance centers to serve Pennsylvania's veterans.

Section 2. Functions.—The Department of Military Affairs is directed to:

(1) Contact veterans and provide information concerning assistance and benefits available to them.

(2) Establish up to fifteen one-stop information and assistance centers throughout the Commonwealth, the location of which should be determined on the basis of geographic and population equity.

(3) The centers are to be located in existing State facilities whenever possible.

(4) The department shall train staff personnel who shall preferably have had previous experience in counseling veterans and who can maintain a liaison with veterans organizations, county directors of veterans affairs, the Veterans' Administration, State agencies, university counselors, and other members of the community necessary to fulfill their function.

(5) Establish a central information office with a toll free phone number under the direction of the deputy adjutant for veterans affairs. The office should be sufficiently staffed to fulfill the concept of a one-stop center.

(6) File a report of its activities to the General Assembly at the end of each fiscal year.

Section 3. Appropriation.—The sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) or as much thereof as is necessary, is appropriated to the Department of Military Affairs for the fiscal year 1973-1974 to staff and maintain the information and assistance centers.

Section 4. Effective Date.—This act shall take effect immediately and will end November 30, 1975.

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Harrisburg, June 17, 1974

I do certify that the above bill, entitled "An act directing the Department of Military Affairs to establish one-stop information and assistance centers for veterans and making an appropriation," was presented to the Governor on the fourth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four, and was not returned within ten days after it had been presented to him, wherefore it has, agreeably to the Constitution of this Commonwealth, become a law in like manner as if he had signed it.

Barton A. Fields

Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth