

No. 2000-90

## AN ACT

HB 2139

Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the State Veterans' Commission and for military leaves of absence.

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

Section 1. Sections 1702(b) and 7302 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

§ 1702. State Veterans' Commission.

\* \* \*

(b) Composition.—The commission shall be composed of:

- (1) The Adjutant General, ex officio, or his designee.
- (2) The State commander, commandant or head, or his designee, of each of the following named veterans' organizations:
  - (i) The American Legion.
  - (ii) AMVETS.
  - (iii) Blinded Veterans Association.
  - (iv) Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America.
  - (v) Disabled American Veterans.
  - (vi) Jewish War Veterans of the United States.
  - (vii) Marine Corps League.
  - (viii) Military Order of the Purple Heart.
  - (ix) State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs.
  - (x) Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
  - (xi) Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Inc.
  - (xii) Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Inc.
  - (xiii) The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
  - (xiv) American Ex-Prisoners of War.
  - (xv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association.
- (3) Four members at large appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Adjutant General, each of whom shall be a veteran and a member in good and regular standing of a Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized national veterans' organization active in this Commonwealth. At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam era. Members at large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor has been appointed.
- (4) The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the *Executive Director of AMVETS* as nonvoting members.

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§ 7302. Granting military leaves of absence.

(a) Enlistment or draft.—Whenever any employee shall, in time of war or armed conflict, or emergency proclaimed by the Governor or by the President of the United States, enlist or shall, at any time, be drafted into the active military service of the United States, he shall be automatically granted a military leave of absence. So long as an employee is on military leave of absence, he shall not be removed from his employment and his duties shall either be performed by other employees or by a temporary substitute. During such time he [shall not] *may* receive [any] remuneration from his civilian employer.

(b) Reserve components.—Whenever any employee who is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces shall be called or ordered to active duty by the United States and whenever any employee who is a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard shall be ordered to active State duty or special State duty by the Governor or his designee, he shall automatically be granted a military leave of absence.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 22nd day of November, A.D. 2000.

THOMAS J. RIDGE