

HOUSE BILL No. 3015

By Committee on Appropriations

3-16

9 AN ACT concerning the Kansas commission on veterans affairs; estab-
10 lishing a veterans claims assistance program and a service grant pro-
11 gram; prescribing guidelines and limitations; powers, duties and func-
12 tions for the commission and veterans service organizations; providing
13 for annual reporting to and study and review by the legislative budget
14 committee.

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16 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

17 Section 1. (a) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall estab-
18 lish and administer a veterans claims assistance program in accordance
19 with this section to improve the coordination of veterans benefits coun-
20 seling in Kansas to maximize the effective and efficient use of taxpayer
21 dollars and to ensure that every veteran is served and receives claims
22 counseling and assistance. The Kansas commission on veterans affairs
23 shall establish and commence operations under the veterans claims assis-
24 tance program in accordance with this section on or before August 1,
25 2006.

26 (b) The veterans claims assistance program shall be implemented and
27 administered through annual service grants to eligible veterans service
28 organizations pursuant to grant agreements entered into with the Kansas
29 commission on veterans affairs in accordance with this section. All service
30 grants and grant agreements shall be subject to the provisions of appro-
31 priation acts.

32 (c) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall adopt rules and
33 regulations to implement and administer the veterans claims assistance
34 program and the service grant program. The rules and regulations shall
35 include: (1) The detailed requirements of the veterans claims assistance
36 program and grant agreements; (2) the responsibilities of all parties to
37 the grant agreements; (3) the duration of the grants; (4) any insurance or
38 bonding requirements; (5) the format and frequency of progress and final
39 reports; (6) the initial and continuing training requirements for veterans
40 claims assistance representatives; (7) the provisions of a quality assurance
41 program for the veterans claims assistance program and the services per-
42 formed by veterans service organizations receiving grants under this sec-
43 tion; and (8) any other information or requirements deemed necessary

1 or appropriate by the commission.

2 (d) All moneys provided to veterans service organizations through
3 service grants shall be used only for salaries, wages, related employer
4 contributions and personnel costs, and operating and capital outlay ex-
5 penditures for training and equipment for veterans claims assistance rep-
6 resentatives and necessary support and managerial staff.

7 (e) Training activities for veterans claims assistance representatives
8 shall be the responsibility of the veterans service organization employing
9 the veterans claims assistance representatives and shall be conducted by
10 qualified veterans claims assistance representatives.

11 (f) To receive a service grant under this section to perform services
12 under the veterans claims assistance program, a veterans service organi-
13 zation shall satisfy the following eligibility requirements: (1) The veterans
14 service organization shall be congressionally chartered by the United
15 States Congress; (2) the veterans service organization shall agree to cross-
16 certify the officers and employees of the Kansas commission on veterans
17 affairs and veterans claims assistance representatives of other veterans
18 service organizations who are performing services under the veterans
19 claims assistance program; (3) agree to participate in one-stop veterans
20 service centers at each federal veterans administration medical center in
21 Kansas; (4) demonstrate the receipt of monetary or service support from
22 its own organization for the veterans claims assistance program; and (5)
23 demonstrate the ability to comply with the requirements prescribed by
24 this section or adopted by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs
25 under this statute for accounting, service work activity and other satisfac-
26 tory performance requirements and measures.

27 (g) Each veterans service organization receiving a service grant under
28 this section shall file with the Kansas commission on veterans affairs,
29 within 90 days after the end of the veterans service organization's fiscal
30 year, a detailed statement prepared by a certified public accountant which
31 sets forth an accounting of all expenditures of moneys received under the
32 service grant. Each veterans service organization receiving a service grant
33 under this section shall apply for the grant funding on an annual basis,
34 shall demonstrate satisfactory performance based on completion of min-
35 imum requirements during the preceding annual period and shall certify
36 that all veterans service representatives funded with service grant moneys
37 meet minimum training requirements to provide for core competencies.

38 (h) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall develop and
39 maintain a central database registry regarding claims outcome data re-
40 ceived from veterans claims assistance representatives under the veterans
41 claims assistance program.

42 Sec. 2. The legislative budget committee shall annually study and
43 review the veterans claims assistance program and the service grants pro-

1 gram of the Kansas commission on veterans affairs under this act. The
2 Kansas commission on veterans affairs and each veterans service organi-
3 zation which is receiving service grants under this section shall prepare
4 and present annual reports of activities and expenditures under the vet-
5 erans claims assistance program and the service grants program.

6 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
7 publication in the Kansas register.