

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1198

Introduced by Senator Calderon

February 22, 2012

An act to add Section 711 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1198, as amended, Calderon. Department of Veterans Affairs: publicity of benefit programs for homeless veterans.

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs within state government and sets forth its powers and duties, including, but not limited to, administration of veterans benefits programs.

This bill would require the department to publicize information pertaining to benefits that are available to qualified homeless veterans, including, but not limited to, the veterans pension programs administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs ~~and~~, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher program, *and CalFresh*. This bill would require the department to publicize this information using printed material, its Internet Web site, ~~and~~ *or* other forms of media, as specified.

The bill would also require the information to state that veterans may receive assistance from a county veterans service office in applying for any benefits that they may be qualified to receive.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 711 is added to the Military and Veterans
2 Code, to read:

3 711. (a) The department shall publicize information pertaining
4 to benefit programs that are available to qualified homeless
5 veterans, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

6 (1) The veterans pension programs administered by the United
7 States Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. Sec. 1501 et
8 seq.), especially the eligibility for those veterans ~~that~~ *who* are 65
9 years of age or older or are permanently and totally disabled.

10 (2) The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher program
11 (Public Law 110-161), and any programs that assist homeless
12 veterans in securing rental housing *with that information including,*
13 *to the extent possible, the information that veterans not eligible*
14 *for loans under the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of*
15 *1974, and subsequent acts, may be eligible for housing assistance*
16 *under the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher program.*

17 (3) CalFresh (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900) of
18 Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code).

19 (b) The department shall publicize this information using ~~all~~
20 *any* of the following methods:

21 (1) Printed material, including, but not limited to, flyers and
22 posters, with the information that can be provided to county
23 veterans service offices, homeless shelters, Veterans Affairs
24 hospitals, and other public and private entities that come into
25 contact with homeless veterans.

26 (2) On the department's Internet Web site.

27 ~~(3) Any other media under which promotional material or~~
28 ~~information for Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974,~~
29 ~~and subsequent acts, which are collectively referred to as the~~
30 ~~CalVet Home Loan program, is distributed. The department shall,~~
31 ~~to the extent possible, publicize that veterans not eligible for loans~~
32 ~~under the CalVet Home Loan Program may be eligible for housing~~
33 ~~assistance under the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher~~
34 ~~program.~~

35 ~~(4)~~

36 (3) Any other method that the department determines would
37 publicize and create awareness to homeless veterans about the
38 benefit programs available to them.

1 (c) The information shall also state that veterans may receive
2 assistance from a county veterans service office in applying for
3 any benefits that they may be qualified to receive.

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