

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 171**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez**

January 24, 2013

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An act to add Section 90 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 171, as introduced, Chávez. Department of Veterans Affairs: consolidation of services to veterans.

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is responsible for administering various programs and services for the benefit of veterans.

This bill would establish the California Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of coordinating and administering veterans assistance programs in the state, and would require the division to perform various functions and duties relating to the coordination and administration of veterans assistance programs, as specified. The bill would require the administrative and support staff responsible for the administration of the specified programs to be transferred from the Employment Development Department to the division, and would require the costs of the transfer to utilize existing resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 90 is added to the Military and Veterans  
2 Code, to read:

3 90. (a) The California Veterans Services and Workforce  
4 Development Division is hereby established within the department  
5 for the purpose of coordinating and administering veterans  
6 assistance programs in the state. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
7 shall have authority over the division.

8 (b) The division shall do all of the following:

9 (1) Coordinate with other state agencies, including, but not  
10 limited to, the California Interagency Council on Veterans, that  
11 provide benefits and assistance to veterans to ensure that  
12 information about veterans assistance programs and benefits is  
13 made available to all state agencies that serve veterans in the state.

14 (2) Administer the programs and services described in the  
15 federal Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program, including, but not  
16 limited to, overseeing the federal Local Veterans' Employment  
17 Representatives Program (LVER), the Transition Assistance  
18 Program (TAP), and the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program  
19 (DVOP), as currently administered by the Employment  
20 Development Department (EDD). The division shall work with  
21 staff from the EDD to develop a plan whereby responsibility for  
22 the administration of these programs shall be transferred from the  
23 EDD to the division. The development of the plan shall be  
24 completed on or before May 1, 2014.

25 (3) Ensure that other state agencies and officials that are  
26 involved in the implementation and administration of veterans  
27 services programs are informed when any changes in existing  
28 programs are required, or new programs are established that  
29 provide assistance and benefits to veterans, and require that those  
30 agencies and officials report to the division when those changes  
31 occur or new programs are established.

32 (4) Collaborate with the California Interagency Council on  
33 Veterans to implement any further change to the delivery of  
34 veterans services not prescribed by the plan in paragraph (2) to  
35 implement this section.

36 (c) (1) In complying with this section, all administrative and  
37 support staff responsible for the administration of TAP, DVOP,  
38 and the LVER shall be transferred from the EDD to the division.

1 (2) Any costs associated with the implementation of these  
2 transfers shall utilize existing resources of the Department of  
3 Veterans Affairs, as the operational cost of these programs utilizes  
4 funding from the Jobs for Veterans State Grant program, as  
5 prescribed within the United States Department of Labor.

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