

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2014
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1509

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox
(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Brown and Quirk-Silva~~ Brown,
Chesbro, Quirk-Silva, Wieckowski, and Yamada)
(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill and Cannella)

January 14, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1509, as amended, Fox. Veterans: transition assistance.

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 require, by July 1, 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a transition assistance program for veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard of any state, as specified. *The bill would require the program to include certain California-specific transition assistance information.*

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. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

2 (a) California veterans should receive ample ~~resources and~~
3 ~~information~~ *information and resources* to assist their transition
4 into civilian life. Though California is home to nearly 1.9 million
5 veterans, California veterans utilize fewer benefits than their peers
6 at the national level. Further, 50 percent of ~~post-9/11~~ *post-9/11*
7 veterans experience difficulty transitioning to civilian life and are
8 experiencing higher rates of disabilities than previous generations
9 of veterans. Young ~~post-9/11~~ *post-9/11* veterans also experience
10 higher unemployment rates than their civilian counterparts.

11 (b) The ~~Federal “Transition Assistance Program~~ *federal*
12 *Transition Goals, Plans and Success” Success (TGPS) Program,*
13 *program,* formerly known as the Transition Assistance Program,
14 was created in 1990 to inform and assist veterans in understanding
15 their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. However,
16 TGPS workshops provide information specific to the state where
17 a veteran is immediately ending his or her service and not to the
18 location of permanent residence. Veterans who were planning to
19 move to California after their service do not receive information
20 about how to best coordinate their VA benefits with existing
21 California benefits. A ~~California-specific~~ *California-specific*
22 transition assistance program would ensure that all veterans
23 residing in California receive the resources and information they
24 need to successfully transition into civilian life.

25 (c) *It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of*
26 *Veterans Affairs utilize its existing personnel and other resources,*
27 *including its existing CalVet Internet Web site, to disseminate*
28 *California-specific transition assistance information developed*
29 *pursuant to Section 90 of the Military and Veterans Code, as added*
30 *by Section 2 of this act. It is also the intent of the Legislature that*
31 *the Department of Veterans Affairs utilize the work and research*
32 *produced by the California Interagency Council on Veterans*
33 *Employment CAL TAP Sub-Workgroup.*

34 SEC. 2. Section 90 is added to the Military and Veterans Code,
35 to read:

36 90. (a) ~~By July 1, 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs~~
37 *department* shall develop a transition assistance program for
38 veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the

1 United States or the National Guard of any state. The program
2 shall be designed to assist veterans in successfully transitioning
3 from military to civilian life in California and to complement the
4 transition program offered by the *United States* Department of
5 Defense. The program shall include, but shall not be limited to,
6 the following California-specific transition assistance information:
7 higher education benefits and program information, vocational
8 training assistance, small business resources and information,
9 health care programs and services, mental health resources and
10 information, military sexual trauma (MST) resources and
11 information, and housing information.

12 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department utilize~~
13 ~~its existing personnel and other resources, including its existing~~
14 ~~internet-based CalVet Internet Web site, to disseminate this~~
15 ~~information.~~

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