

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1931

Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Cook~~ *Gorell*

February 22, 2012

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1931, as amended, ~~Cook~~ *Gorell*. 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:

SECTION 1. Section 90 is added to the Military and Veterans Code, to read:

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

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

(1) Coordinate with other state agencies that provide benefits and assistance to veterans to ensure that information about veterans assistance programs and benefits is made available to all state agencies that serve veterans in the state.

(2) Administer the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and oversee the duties of Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) as prescribed under the federal Jobs for Veterans State Grants program, in cooperation with the Employment Development Department (EDD). The division shall work with staff from the EDD to develop a plan whereby responsibility for the administration of TAP and the LVER shall be transferred from the EDD to the division. The development of the plan shall be completed on or before May 1, 2013.

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

(4) Coordinate with staff from other state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Employment Training Panel, the California Workforce Investment Board, the State Department of Mental Health, the Department of General Services, the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and representatives of the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges with regard to the provision of veterans services and benefits.

- 1 (c) (1) In complying with this section, all administrative and
2 support staff responsible for the administration of TAP and the
3 LVER shall be transferred from the EDD to the division.
- 4 (2) Any costs associated with the implementation of these
5 transfers shall utilize existing resources of the Department of
6 Veterans Affairs, as the operational cost of these programs utilizes
7 funding from the Jobs for Veterans State Grant program, as
8 prescribed within the United States Department of Labor.