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S.B. 160
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs

Primary Sponsor: Sen. O'Brien

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SUMMARY

- Requires certain entities to inform a veteran or the veteran's spouse, surviving spouse, or representative about available health care or financial benefits.
- Requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to provide, to a county veterans service commission, or to a member of the General Assembly, upon request, the names and addresses of veterans for whom the Bureau has issued certain licenses.
- Designates the bill as the "Veteran Information Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Duty to inform veterans

The bill requires certain entities to inform a veteran or the veteran's spouse, surviving spouse, or representative about (1) health care or financial benefits that are available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and (2) information about congressionally chartered veterans service organizations or the county veterans service office that can assist the veteran with investigating and applying for benefits through the VA.

The bill requires this information to be provided to a veteran or the veteran's spouse, surviving spouse, or representative in all of the following situations:

- During a long-term care consultation conducted under the long-term care consultation program administered by the Department of Aging;¹

¹ R.C. 173.42(E)(5).

- By any person or public agency licensed to provide a hospice care program when a veteran seeks services;²
- A nursing home or skilled nursing facility when a veteran seeks admission to the home or facility. This requirement does not apply to a nursing home that participates in the Veteran Community Partnerships Program administered by the VA;³
- A hospital discharging a patient who is a veteran and who requires additional health care services after discharge.⁴

Also, the bill requires the Medicaid Director to provide, to a veteran who has submitted an application for the Medicaid program, information about the county veterans service office that can assist the veteran with investigating and applying for benefits through the VA.⁵

Continuing law defines a veteran, for purposes of the bill's requirements, as (1) a former member of the U.S. armed forces who served on active military duty and received an honorable discharge or honorable separation, or (2) a U.S. merchant marine who has an honorable report of separation from active duty military service.⁶

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

The bill requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to provide, to a county veterans service commission, or to a member of the General Assembly, upon request, a spreadsheet containing the names and addresses of individuals for whom the BMV has issued a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state identification card that indicates that the licensee or cardholder is a veteran, active duty, or reservist of the U.S. armed forces.

The information provided to a county veterans service commission must be limited to the names and addresses of individuals residing in the commission's county. And the information provided to a member of the General Assembly must be limited to the names and addresses of individuals residing in the member's legislative district.

The bill specifies that a county veterans service commission and a member of the General Assembly may only use the information obtained from the BMV to provide notification that the veteran may be eligible for health care or financial benefits through the VA or to provide information about congressionally chartered veterans service organizations or the county veterans service office that can assist with investigating and applying for benefits through the VA.⁷

² R.C. 3712.06(I).

³ R.C. 3721.141.

⁴ R.C. 3727.75(B)(2).

⁵ R.C. 5162.75.

⁶ R.C. 5901.01, not in the bill.

⁷ R.C. 4501.029.

Veteran Information Act

The bill is designated as the “Veteran Information Act.”⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-13-21
Reported, S. Veterans and Public Safety	06-02-21
Passed Senate (33-0)	06-09-21
Reported H. Armed Services and Veterans Affairs	05-12-22

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⁸ Section 3.