



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### Am. S.B. 10\*

131st General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety)

**Sens.** Burke and LaRose, Coley, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Eklund, Faber, Gardner, Gentile, Hite, Hottinger, Jones, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas, Uecker, Widener, Williams, Yuko

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to review the public assistance reporting information system to determine whether an individual who is a medical assistance recipient may be eligible for federal military-related healthcare benefits.
- If potential eligibility is determined, requires ODM to notify the individual of the potential eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the appropriate county veterans service commission.
- Requires the Director of Veterans Services to develop, institute, and monitor a program under which the Department of Veterans Services assists individuals, who are medical assistance recipients, to obtain federal military-related health care benefits.
- Extends eligibility for the enhanced homestead exemption for disabled veterans.

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\* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Medical assistance recipients' eligibility for federal military-related health care benefits

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to review information in the public assistance reporting information system to determine whether an individual who is a medical assistance recipient may be eligible for federal military-related healthcare benefits. "Federal military-related health care benefits" means any of the health care benefits provided by the United States Department of Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to current or former service members and their eligible dependents, including the benefits provided through the programs known as TRICARE and CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs).

If ODM determines that the individual may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits, it must notify the individual of the potential eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the veterans service commission in the county in which the individual resides for assistance in applying for the benefits. ODM must provide the appropriate contact information to the individual.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the bill requires the Director of Veterans Services to develop, institute, and monitor a program under which the Department of Veterans Services assists individuals, who are medical assistance recipients, to obtain federal military-related health care benefits.<sup>2</sup>

### Homestead exemption for disabled veterans

Beginning tax year 2015, the bill extends eligibility for the homestead exemption for disabled veterans to include veterans who receive a total disability rating for compensation based on individual unemployability due to a service-connected disability. Under continuing law, a veteran who has received a total disability rating for which federal regulations prescribe a 100% disability rating may receive the exemption. To receive the homestead exemption, the bill states a veteran must have been discharged or released from the armed forces under honorable conditions. Current law does not contain this requirement.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5160.471.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5902.21.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 323.151.



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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-02-15
Reported, S. Gov't Oversight & Reform	03-25-15
Passed Senate (33-0)	04-15-15
Reported, H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety	---

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