

HOUSE BILL NO. 5227

November 07, 2019, Introduced by Reps. Bolden, Hood, Manoogian, Ellison, Sabo, Hope, Lasinski, Tate, Anthony, Haadsma, Shannon, Coleman, Brixie, Kennedy, Sneller, Koleszar, Pohutsky, Tyrone Carter, Wittenberg, Hammoud, Yancey and Jones and referred to the Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 280, entitled
"The social welfare act,"
(MCL 400.1 to 400.119b) by adding section 89.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 89. (1) The department shall partner with the department
2 of military and veterans affairs to establish a joint advisory
3 committee that will develop and implement the initiative described



1 in subsection (2). Committee formation and membership must be
2 jointly determined by the department and the department of military
3 and veterans affairs.

4 (2) The committee shall develop and implement a joint
5 initiative to increase awareness among the veterans and family
6 members of veterans of this state of the programs and benefits for
7 which they may be eligible as veterans and family members of
8 veterans. All of the following apply to the initiative described in
9 this subsection:

10 (a) The initiative must have the title, "Ask the Question."

11 (b) The object of the initiative is to encourage public and
12 private agencies and organizations in the provider sector,
13 including, but not limited to, health care, social services, and
14 education, to ask the members of the populations they serve at the
15 point of contact, "Have you or a member of your family served in
16 the military?".

17 (c) If an individual answers the question in subdivision (b)
18 affirmatively, the committee shall encourage the agency or
19 organization described in subdivision (b) to provide the individual
20 with verbal guidance and printed information, developed and
21 distributed by the committee, regarding state and federal programs
22 or benefits that may be available to the individual as a veteran,
23 or as a family member of a veteran, including general information
24 regarding how and where to apply for or participate in those
25 programs or benefits.

26 (d) The committee shall provide advice and guidance to the
27 agencies and organizations described in subdivision (b) regarding
28 best practices for directing a veteran, or a family member of a
29 veteran, to a specific veterans' program or benefit that may be of



1 assistance to the veteran, or the family member of a veteran, in
2 regard to his or her specific need.

3 (3) The printed information distributed under subsection
4 (2)(c) must include a conspicuously placed disclaimer stating that
5 the provision of guidance or information regarding veterans'
6 programs and benefits that may be available to the individual
7 receiving that guidance or information is for informational
8 purposes only and is not an indication or determination of
9 eligibility for those programs or benefits.

10 (4) The department may share with the department of military
11 and veterans affairs information in its possession that is related
12 to the needs of veterans and family members of veterans if
13 necessary to facilitate the initiative described in this section,
14 unless sharing that information is a violation of a state or
15 federal law concerning privacy.

16 (5) As used in this section, "committee" means the joint
17 advisory committee established under subsection (1).

18 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
19 unless Senate Bill No. ____ or House Bill No. 5226 (request no.
20 04929'19) of the 100th Legislature is enacted into law.

