

HOUSE BILL NO. 4955

June 01, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Weiss and Bolden 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 to develop and implement the initiative described in

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 regard to his or her specific need.

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

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

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

17 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
18 unless Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No.4954 (request no.
19 02657'21) of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.