

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 146

Sponsor: SENATOR BAKER

Printer's No. 93

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by inserting after "Fund"

2 ; and establishing the Veterans' Trust Fund Board

3 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 7 through 18; page 2, lines 1

4 through 25; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and

5 inserting

6 Section 1. Section 1721(e) of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
8 adding a subsection to read:

9 § 1721. Veterans' Trust Fund.

10 * * *

11 (e) Operation.--

12 (1) The department shall adopt a statement of policy for
13 the maintenance and use of the fund within 60 days of the
14 effective date of this section. The policy shall be published
15 as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, but shall not be
16 subject to review under section 205 of the act of July 31,
17 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the Commonwealth
18 Documents Law, sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of
19 October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth
20 Attorneys Act or the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181),
21 known as the Regulatory Review Act.

22 (2) The Veterans' Trust Fund Board is established as an
23 advisory board within the department. The following shall
24 apply:

25 (i) The purpose of the Veterans' Trust Fund Board is
26 to increase donations to ensure the effective management
27 and impactful distribution of money in the Veterans'
28 Trust Fund.

29 (ii) The Veterans' Trust Fund Board shall have the
30 following duties:

31 (A) Advise the department on the priorities of
32 the Veterans' Trust Fund grants.

33 (B) Review Veterans' Trust Fund grant
34 applications.

35 (C) Raise public awareness of the Veterans'
36 Trust Fund.

1 (D) Recommend performance audit metrics for
2 organizations receiving Veterans' Trust Fund grants.

3 (E) Recommend legislative or policy changes to
4 enhance the Veterans' Trust Fund.

5 (F) Review audits and reports with the
6 department and the chairperson and minority
7 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
8 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the
9 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Veterans
10 Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 (iii) Members of the Veterans' Trust Fund Board
13 shall be veterans, family members of veterans and
14 individuals who have extensive experience in serving
15 veterans. In determining who to appoint to the Veterans'
16 Trust Fund Board, consideration shall be given to subject
17 matter experts in veterans issues regarding behavioral
18 health, mental health, posttraumatic stress disorder
19 injuries, physical disabilities, housing or other social
20 determinants of health. The Veterans' Trust Fund Board
21 shall consist of the following:

22 (A) The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'
23 Affairs or a designee, who shall serve ex officio.

24 (B) Two members recommended by the Adjutant
25 General and appointed by the Governor.

26 (C) Two members of the commission recommended by
27 the chairperson of the commission and appointed by
28 the Governor.

29 (D) One member recommended by the Adjutant
30 General from each of the five PA VETConnect Program
31 regions, the City of Philadelphia and the City of
32 Pittsburgh and appointed by the Governor.

33 (iv) Except as provided under this subparagraph,
34 members appointed by the Governor to the Veterans' Trust
35 Fund Board shall serve a term of four years and until a
36 successor has been appointed. The initial members
37 appointed by the Governor to the Veterans' Trust Fund
38 Board shall serve terms as follows as determined by the
39 Governor:

40 (A) Two members shall serve a term of one year.

41 (B) Three members shall serve a term of two
42 years.

43 (C) Three members shall serve a term of three
44 years.

45 (D) Three members shall serve a term of four
46 years.

47 (v) Upon recommendation from the Adjutant General,
48 the Governor may declare a vacancy to exist if a member
49 appointed by the Governor to the Veterans' Trust Fund
50 Board fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the
51 Veterans' Trust Fund Board without good cause. The

1 Governor shall fill a vacancy declared under this
2 subparagraph for the remainder of the unexpired term.

3 (vi) The Veterans' Trust Fund Board shall annually
4 elect a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first
5 meeting commencing no later than March 31, 2025. The
6 department shall designate an executive secretary to the
7 Veterans' Trust Fund Board.

8 (vii) Members of the Veterans' Trust Fund Board
9 shall receive no compensation for their services but
10 shall receive reimbursement for their necessary and
11 proper expenses incurred in executing their duties as
12 members of the Veterans' Trust Fund Board.

13 (viii) The Veterans' Trust Fund Board shall meet
14 upon the call of the chairperson or the Deputy Adjutant
15 General of Veterans' Affairs. Six members of the
16 Veterans' Trust Fund Board shall constitute a quorum.

17 (ix) Voting members of the Veterans' Trust Fund
18 Board may not be current employees of the department.

19 (x) If a member of the Veterans' Trust Fund Board
20 has an interest in an organization applying for a grant
21 from the Veterans' Trust Fund, the member shall refrain
22 from further discussion with the applicant and may not
23 make a recommendation regarding the approval or
24 disapproval of the application. If a member of the
25 Veterans' Trust Fund Board has a conflict of interest
26 with an organization applying for a grant from the
27 Veterans' Trust Fund, the member shall recuse oneself.

28 * * *

29 (g) Audit.--By July 31, 2026, and every two years
30 thereafter, the department shall submit a performance audit to
31 the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs
32 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the
33 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and
34 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
35 Representatives. The performance audit shall be conducted in
36 accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards
37 and examine the impacts on veterans by organizations funded
38 through the Veterans' Trust Fund.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.