



February 1, 2013

# HOUSE BILL No. 1387

DIGEST OF HB 1387 (Updated January 29, 2013 2:32 pm - DI 109)

**Citations Affected:** IC 10-17.

**Synopsis:** Local veterans' service officers. Provides that county and city service officers must be certified by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs (department). Requires the veterans' affairs commission to: (1) establish standards for certification of county and city service officers; and (2) establish and administer a written examination for renewal of the certification of county and city service officers. Requires a county or city service officer to obtain certification from the department within 30 days after becoming employed as a service officer. Requires a new county or city service officer, within one year after becoming employed as a service officer, to attend a course and become accredited to represent veterans. Requires a county or service officer employed prior to July 1, 2013, to attend a course and become accredited to represent veterans by July 1, 2015. Establishes a service officer scholarship fund to provide scholarships for expenses associated with service officer training. Annually appropriates \$46,000 to the service officer scholarship fund.

**Effective:** July 1, 2013.

**Speedy, Davisson**

January 22, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.  
January 31, 2013, amended, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 127.

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February 1, 2013

First Regular Session 118th General Assembly (2013)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1387

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning the military and veterans and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-1-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013]: Sec. 4. The commission ~~may~~  
3 **shall** do acts necessary or reasonably incident to the fulfillment of the  
4 purposes of this chapter, including the following:  
5 (1) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer this chapter.  
6 (2) Advise the veterans' state service officer in problems  
7 concerning the welfare of veterans.  
8 (3) Determine general administrative policies within the  
9 department.  
10 (4) **Establish standards for certification of county and city**  
11 **service officers.**  
12 (5) **Establish and administer a written examination for**  
13 **renewal of the certification of county and city service officers.**  
14 SECTION 2. IC 10-17-1-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
15 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013]: Sec. 10. (a) **Within thirty**  
16 **(30) days of their appointment, new county or city service officers**  
17 **must attend a new service officer orientation presented by the**

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1 Indiana department of veterans' affairs and, according to the  
 2 standards established under section 4(4) of this chapter, become  
 3 certified to assist veterans and their dependents and survivors. The  
 4 curriculum for the new service officer orientation presented under  
 5 this subsection shall be determined by the director.

6 (b) Within one (1) year of appointment, new service officers  
 7 must attend a course presented by a national organization and  
 8 become accredited to represent veterans.

9 (c) An individual employed as a county or city service officer  
 10 under this chapter on July 1, 2013, is required to become  
 11 accredited not later than July 1, 2015, to represent veterans.

12 (d) ~~Annually, a all county or city service officer officers~~ shall ~~in the~~  
 13 ~~discretion of the director of veterans' affairs,~~ undergo a course of  
 14 training to adequately address problems of discharged veterans in the  
 15 service officer's county or city, including a thorough familiarization  
 16 with laws, rules, and regulations of the federal government and the  
 17 state that affect benefits to which the veterans and dependents of the  
 18 veterans are entitled. **After a service officer has undergone this**  
 19 **sustainment training and successfully passed a written test, the**  
 20 **service officer shall be recertified by the director to assist veterans**  
 21 **for the following year.**

22 SECTION 3. IC 10-17-14 IS ADDED THE INDIANA CODE AS  
 23 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 24 1, 2013]:

25 **Chapter 14. Service Officer Scholarship Fund**

26 **Sec. 1. (a) The service officer scholarship fund is established to**  
 27 **provide scholarships to eligible applicants for expenses associated**  
 28 **with service officer training, including travel and incidental**  
 29 **expenses of eligible applicants seeking initial and renewal service**  
 30 **officer accreditation.**

31 (b) The department shall administer the fund. The expenses of  
 32 administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

33 (c) There is annually appropriated to the service officer  
 34 scholarship fund from the state general fund forty-six thousand  
 35 dollars (\$46,000) to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The  
 36 fund may accept grants, gifts, and donations.

37 (d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not  
 38 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
 39 manner as other public funds. Interest that accrues from those  
 40 investments shall be deposited in the fund.

41 (e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not  
 42 revert to the state general fund.



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1           **Sec. 2. Money in the service officer scholarship fund shall be**  
2 **used to provide scholarships for expenses associated with service**  
3 **officer training, including travel and incidental expenses to service**  
4 **officer training applicants in the following amounts:**  
5           **(1) Up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for an applicant seeking**  
6 **an initial service officer accreditation.**  
7           **(2) Up to two hundred dollars (\$200) for an applicant seeking**  
8 **to renew a service officer accreditation.**  
9           **Sec. 3. A service officer scholarship applicant shall apply for a**  
10 **scholarship under this chapter in a manner determined by the**  
11 **department. The department shall determine the criteria that must**  
12 **be met by each applicant to qualify for a scholarship under this**  
13 **chapter.**  
14           **Sec. 4. The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**  
15 **implement this chapter.**

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, to which was referred House Bill 1387, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Delete the title and insert the following:

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning the military and veterans and to make an appropriation.

Page 1, line 2, strike "may" and insert "**shall**".

Page 1, delete lines 14 through 17.

Page 2, delete lines 1 through 28.

Page 2, line 30, delete "Annually," and insert "**Within thirty (30) days of their appointment, new county or city service officers must attend a new service officer orientation presented by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs and, according to the standards established under section 4(4) of this chapter, become certified to assist veterans and their dependents and survivors. The curriculum for the new service officer orientation presented under this subsection shall be determined by the director.**

**(b) Within one (1) year of appointment, new service officers must attend a course presented by a national organization and become accredited to represent veterans.**

**(c) An individual employed as a county or city service officer under this chapter on July 1, 2013, is required to become accredited not later than July 1, 2015, to represent veterans.**

**(d) Annually,".**

Page 2, line 30, strike "a" and insert "**all**".

Page 2, line 31, strike "officer" and insert "**officers**".

Page 2, line 32, delete "enable the service".

Page 2, line 33, delete "officer to".

Page 2, line 34, delete "." and insert ",".

Page 2, line 34, reset in roman "including".

Page 2, line 34, delete "The course of training must".

Page 2, line 35, delete "provide".

Page 2, line 37, after "entitled." insert "**After a service officer has undergone this sustainment training and successfully passed a written test, the service officer shall be recertified by the director to assist veterans for the following year.**

SECTION 3. IC 10-17-14 IS ADDED THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013]:

**Chapter 14. Service Officer Scholarship Fund**

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**Sec. 1. (a) The service officer scholarship fund is established to provide scholarships to eligible applicants for expenses associated with service officer training, including travel and incidental expenses of eligible applicants seeking initial and renewal service officer accreditation.**

**(b) The department shall administer the fund. The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.**

**(c) There is annually appropriated to the service officer scholarship fund from the state general fund forty-six thousand dollars (\$46,000) to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The fund may accept grants, gifts, and donations.**

**(d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds. Interest that accrues from those investments shall be deposited in the fund.**

**(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.**

**Sec. 2. Money in the service officer scholarship fund shall be used to provide scholarships for expenses associated with service officer training, including travel and incidental expenses to service officer training applicants in the following amounts:**

**(1) Up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for an applicant seeking an initial service officer accreditation.**

**(2) Up to two hundred dollars (\$200) for an applicant seeking to renew a service officer accreditation.**

**Sec. 3. A service officer scholarship applicant shall apply for a scholarship under this chapter in a manner determined by the department. The department shall determine the criteria that must be met by each applicant to qualify for a scholarship under this chapter.**

**Sec. 4. The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter."**

Page 2, delete lines 38 through 42.

Delete page 3.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1387 as introduced.)

FRYE R, Chair

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

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