

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.

HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1387

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:

SECTION 1. IC 10-16-12-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013]: Sec. 1. The following awards and decorations are established to be bestowed upon the officers and enlisted persons of the armed forces of Indiana under the conditions and in the manner provided in this article:

- (1) An Indiana Distinguished Service Cross shall be awarded to any commissioned officer or enlisted person of the militia, who:
 - (A) performs, at great personal danger and risk of life or limb in peace or war, any act of heroism designed to protect life or property; or
 - (B) in the face of a military or armed enemy of the United States government or of the state of Indiana, performs an act over and beyond the call of duty, which act, danger, or risk the officer or enlisted person could have failed to perform or incur without being subject to censure for neglect of duty.
- (2) An Indiana Distinguished Service Medal shall be awarded to a commissioned officer or an enlisted person of the militia and other officers, enlisted persons, and civilians, who perform unusually distinguished or meritorious service, that:
 - (A) to a marked degree is reflected in the increased efficiency



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of the militia; or

(B) brings exceptional and great honor or credit to the Indiana armed forces and commands the attention and respect of the citizens of Indiana and of the military establishment throughout the United States.

(3) Long Service Medals shall be awarded to officers and enlisted persons for honest and faithful service in the federally recognized Indiana national guard for periods of:

- (A) ten (10) years;
- (B) fifteen (15) years;
- (C) twenty (20) years;
- (D) twenty-five (25) years; and
- (E) for longer periods.

A symbol shall be worn on the ribbon of each medal, one (1) for each year in addition to the period for which the medal was issued, until the officer or enlisted person is entitled to a medal for the next period for which a different long service medal is issued.

(4) An Indiana national guard commendation medal shall be awarded to any commissioned officer or enlisted person of the militia and other officers, enlisted persons, and civilians, who have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The required meritorious achievement or meritorious service while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Indiana distinguished service medal must have been accomplished with distinction. The award may be made for acts of outstanding courage that do not meet the requirements for award of the Indiana distinguished service medal. It is particularly desirable that emphasis be placed on the award of this decoration to outstanding company grade officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel whose achievements and service meet the prescribed standards.

(5) An Indiana Emergency Service Ribbon shall be awarded to all currently assigned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted members of the Indiana national guard who have served on state active duty during a state emergency. For purposes of this subdivision, "state emergency" means any emergency for any period declared by the governor or the adjutant general. The Indiana emergency service ribbon shall be awarded to denote honorable state active military duty by members of the Indiana army and air national guard during state emergencies.

(6) Other medals for any war or campaign or mobilization for

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which a medal has not been awarded by the federal government may be:

(A) established by executive order of the governor; and

(B) awarded to members of any federally recognized military force of the state who participated in the military force.

(7) An Air National Guard First Sergeant Ribbon is authorized for a currently assigned member who serves or has previously served as a first sergeant in the Indiana Air National Guard, if the member meets the criteria set forth in clause (A). A request for an award, including a retroactive award, must be submitted in the manner set forth in clause (B), and meet any other criteria established by the adjutant general. The ribbon shall consist of a plain blue field with a silver diamond device in the center, and no medal shall accompany the award of the ribbon. The ribbon shall be awarded as follows:

(A) In recognition of meritorious service by a member of the Indiana Air National Guard who has served in the first sergeant career field, Special Duty Identifier 8F000, and who meets the following criteria:

(i) Has been assigned to a valid first sergeant position for at least three (3) years.

(ii) Graduated from either the United States Air Force Academy or the Army National Guard First Sergeant Academy.

(B) The individual unit commander of a member of the Indiana Air National Guard who meets the criteria set forth in clause (A) shall submit a letter to the wing commander, recommending the member for the award based upon the member's contributions, conduct, and demonstrated leadership as a first sergeant. If the wing commander approves, the wing commander shall forward the letter of recommendation to the military personnel flight commanding officer for action. If the wing commander disapproves, the wing commander shall return the letter of recommendation to the unit commander.

(C) The adjutant general shall establish procedures for the award presentation ceremony following accepted practice and military tradition.

(8) An Indiana Funeral Honors Ribbon shall be awarded to all members of the Indiana Air National Guard, the Indiana Army National Guard, retired members of the Indiana Air National Guard and Indiana Army National Guard, and members of veterans' organizations who have been trained

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and certified by the United States Department of Defense as Department of Defense Funeral Honors participants. The Indiana Funeral Honors Ribbon shall be awarded to denote honorable and distinguished service in the performance of military funerals and similar activities within Indiana.

For the purposes of this article, officers and enlisted persons of the regular army assigned to the armed forces of Indiana as instructors and assistant instructors shall be considered as officers and enlisted persons of the Indiana armed forces.

SECTION 2. IC 10-17-1-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 4. The commission ~~may~~ **shall** do acts necessary or reasonably incident to the fulfillment of the purposes of this chapter, including the following:

- (1) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer this chapter.
- (2) Advise the veterans' state service officer in problems concerning the welfare of veterans.
- (3) Determine general administrative policies within the department.
- (4) Establish standards for certification of county and city service officers.**
- (5) Establish and administer a written examination for renewal of the certification of county and city service officers.**

SECTION 3. IC 10-17-1-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 10. **(a) 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, a all county or city service officer officers shall in the discretion of the director of veterans' affairs, undergo a course of training to adequately address problems of discharged veterans in the service officer's county or city, including a thorough familiarization with laws, rules, and regulations of the federal government and the

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state that affect benefits to which the veterans and dependents of the veterans are entitled. **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 4. IC 10-17-12-0.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.50-2009, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 0.7. **(a)** The purpose of the fund established in section 8 of this chapter is to provide:

(1) short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for hardships that result from the qualified service members' active duty service; **and**

(2) funding for:

(A) grants for reimbursement for training; and

(B) the purchase of computer equipment and software;

for county and city veterans' service officers.

(b) Funding for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) must be provided from the amount transferred to the fund under section 13 of this chapter.

SECTION 5. IC 10-17-12-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.54-2012, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 8. **(a)** The military family relief fund is established to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified service members. **The fund may also be used to provide for grants for reimbursement for training and for computer equipment and software for county and city veterans' service officers.**

(b) Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, the commission shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for assistance as described in subsection (a). The director shall each year provide a report to the budget committee concerning the grant program under this chapter.

(c) A qualified service member or the qualified service member's dependent may be eligible to receive assistance from the fund for up to three (3) years after the earlier of the following:

(1) The date the qualified service member's active duty service ends.

(2) The date, as established by presidential proclamation or by law, of the cessation of the national conflict or war with respect

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to which the qualified service member is eligible to receive assistance under section 7.5(3)(B) of this chapter.

(d) The commission shall administer the fund.

SECTION 6. IC 10-17-12-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 13. (a) The commission shall transfer one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the veterans' affairs trust fund established by IC 10-17-13-3 to the fund.**

(b) There is appropriated to the commission one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the fund for:

(1) grants for training county and city veterans' service officers under IC 10-17-1-10; and

(2) the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used by the city and county veterans' service officers.

(c) A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant for reimbursement for training expenses associated with service officer training, including travel and incidental expenses of eligible county and city veterans' service officers seeking initial or renewal service officer accreditation. A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant under this subsection in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for reimbursement. The commission shall set standards for the reimbursement grants. A county or city veterans' service officer may apply to the commission for a reimbursement grant, and the commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an application.

(d) A county or city that employs a veterans' service officer may receive a grant, in an amount not to exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200), for reimbursement for computer equipment and software to enable the veterans' service officer to access national data bases for benefits for veterans. The commission shall set standards for the review of grants for the purchase of computer equipment and software under this subsection. A county or city may apply to the commission for a grant for reimbursement for the purchase of computer equipment and software, and the commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an application.

SECTION 7. An emergency is declared for this act.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

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