

COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN AND ALIGN SERVICES PROVIDED TO MAINE VETERANS**127th Maine Legislature – Interim 2015**

Provided by Danielle Fox, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis – October 7, 2015

Veteran Transition Assistance Programs and Commissions

Information from the National Conference of State Legislatures

State	Statute	Summary
California	2014 Cal. Stats., Chap. 647 (2014 AB 1509)	Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a transition assistance program by July 1, 2015, for veterans discharged from the Armed Forces or National Guard. The program would provide California-specific information on education benefits, job training, small business resources, health care and mental health programs, housing, etc.
Georgia	Ga. Code §§38-4-90 – 39-4-92	Establishes the Returning Veterans Task Force to investigate how state services can be provided to veterans returning from military service within the past three years. The task force must issue recommendations to each relevant state agency to improve the delivery of services to returning veterans.
Illinois	Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 20, §2805/20	Establishes the Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force to investigate the re-entry process for service members returning to civilian life from active duty. Topics include PTSD, homelessness, and disabilities, among others. In 2014, the task force must focus on issues facing women veterans (2013 HB 3346).
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. §40.350	Creates the Kentucky Wounded or Disabled Veterans program to ease the transition from active service for wounded or disabled veterans and ensure that they receive the federal, state and private benefits to which they are entitled. Primary components of the program are advocacy, collaboration, research, education and recognition.
Massachusetts	2014 Mass. Acts, Chap. 62 (2014 SB 2052)	Establishes the Massachusetts Service member Post-Deployment Council to make recommendations regarding the implementation of a program to support service members transitioning to civilian life after deployment. A program plan and recommendations for legislation must be submitted in September 2015.
North Carolina	2014 Exec. Order 49	Establishes the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and Their Families to develop interagency solutions to make North Carolina a more veteran-friendly state. The working group will address transition, integration, and social support issues.

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Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. §§408.503 – 408.507	Requires state agencies to partner with the state Military Department to provide reintegration services for veterans through regional strategies; Requires the Military Department to make contact information for the reintegration team available to establishments operated to provide food to veterans.
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws §§30-17.1-10 – 30-17.1-12	Creates a Veterans Services Strategic Plan Advisory Committee to maintain a five-year statewide plan addressing access to benefits, education, employment, veteran-owned small businesses, health care, homelessness, etc.
	2013 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 152 (2013 SB 583)	Requests formation of a state Veterans' Transition Team composed of community and state agencies involved in veterans services, to better coordinate, leverage, and ultimately improve services to ease both short and long-term transitions for veterans, focusing particularly on improving access to employment, health care, education, housing, and job training.
Utah	2014 Utah Laws, Chap. 150 (2014 HB 313)	Creates a legislative commission to address veterans' and military affairs issues. Requires the commission to study and make recommendations to the legislature on reintegration from military to civilian status, among other things.
Virginia	2014 Va. Acts, Chap. 815 (2014 HB 1009)	Allows the Board of Workforce Development to establish a military transition assistance committee to focus on reducing process and qualification barriers to training and employment services.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures