

SENATE BILL No. 626

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-14

9 AN ACT concerning the Kansas commission on veterans affairs; estab-
10 lishing the veterans enhanced service delivery program within the vet-
11 erans claims assistance program; prescribing guidelines and limita-
12 tions; powers, duties and functions for veteran services; providing for
13 annual reporting to and study and review by the legislative budget
14 committee; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 73-1236 and repealing the
15 existing section.
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17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

18 Section 1. (a) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall estab-
19 lish and administer the veterans enhanced service delivery program
20 within the veterans claims assistance program in accordance with this
21 section to ensure delivery of services to all veterans, their dependents and
22 survivors and, where necessary, to bring those services to veterans. The
23 veterans enhanced service delivery program shall incorporate a reorgan-
24 ized veteran services program, and mobile offices, to reach and support
25 all veterans, their dependents and survivors. By combining mobile offices
26 and wireless technology, the veterans enhanced service delivery program
27 shall ensure all veterans have access to service. The director of the vet-
28 erans claims assistance program shall appoint subordinate officers and
29 employees, subject to the approval of the executive director of the Kansas
30 commission on veterans affairs.

31 (b) The veterans claims assistance advisory board shall advise the
32 Kansas commission on veterans affairs and the director of the veterans
33 claims assistance program who shall implement and administer the vet-
34 erans enhanced service delivery program.

35 (c) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall adopt rules and
36 regulations to implement and administer the veterans enhanced service
37 delivery program. The rules and regulations shall include: (1) Duties and
38 responsibilities of the veterans claims assistance advisory board to oversee
39 the operation and reorganization of veteran services within the veterans
40 claims assistance program and the introduction of the mobile office con-
41 cept; (2) the development of criteria for the location, maintenance and
42 staffing of mobile offices and veteran service offices; (3) the development
43 of criteria for joint outreach programs between veteran service organi-

1 zations, state and federal agencies providing services to veterans and the
2 Kansas commission on veterans affairs; (4) targeted outreach programs
3 to reach minority veterans, veterans in rural Kansas communities, home-
4 bound veterans, and those in nursing homes or those with limited mo-
5 bility; and (5) the development of criteria for working with staff at the
6 United States department of veterans affairs offices and clinics through-
7 out Kansas, as well as state agencies, community organizations, business
8 leaders and veteran service organizations to ensure the broadest reach of
9 the program.

10 (d) Reorganization of veteran services shall include the use of mobile
11 claims offices, as necessary, and a strong rural outreach program in order
12 to streamline and modernize Kansas' delivery services and benefits to
13 veterans, their dependents and survivors, thereby allowing veterans in
14 every community in Kansas to maximize their ability to file claims and
15 receive all benefits to which they are entitled.

16 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 73-1236 is hereby amended to read as
17 follows: 73-1236. The legislative budget committee shall annually study
18 and review the veterans claims assistance program, *the veterans enhanced*
19 *service delivery program* and the service grants program of the Kansas
20 commission on veterans affairs under this act. The Kansas commission
21 on veterans affairs and each veterans service organization which is re-
22 ceiving service grants under this section shall prepare and present annual
23 reports of activities and expenditures under the veterans claims assistance
24 program and the service grants program.

25 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 73-1236 is hereby repealed.

26 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
27 publication in the Kansas register.