

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 462

BY REPRESENTATIVE EGAN

**VETERANS:** Provides relative to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

# 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:782(A) and to enact R.S. 36:785.1, relative to the Department  
3 of Veterans Affairs; to establish the office of military affairs; to establish a secretary  
4 position; to provide for salaries; to provide for responsibilities; and to provide for  
5 related matters.

**6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:**

7 Section 1. R.S. 36:782(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8        §782. Officers of the department; compensation for one office only

9           A. The officers of the department shall be the secretary, the deputy secretary  
10          if a deputy secretary is appointed, the undersecretary, and the authorized assistant  
11          secretary each of whom shall be selected and shall perform functions as provided in  
12          this Title. There shall be an authorized assistant secretary for the office of military  
13          affairs.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. R.S. 36:785.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**16        §785.1. Office of military affairs; assistant secretary**

17           There shall be an office of military affairs within the Department of Veterans  
18           Affairs. An assistant secretary to the office of military affairs shall be appointed by  
19           the secretary with consent of the Senate and who shall serve at the pleasure of the  
20           secretary at a salary fixed by the secretary, which salary shall not exceed the amount

1       approved for such position by the legislature while in session. The duties and  
2       functions of the assistant secretary of the office of military affairs shall be  
3       determined and assigned by the secretary but shall primarily focus on strategic  
4       communications to improve the federal military installations within the state of  
5       Louisiana and the active duty service members who serve at those installations.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 462 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Egan

**Abstract:** Establishes the office of military affairs and the assistant secretary.

Present law (R.S. 36:782(A)) provides that the officers of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs includes the secretary, the deputy secretary if a deputy secretary is appointed, the undersecretary, and the authorized assistant secretary who will perform specific duties pursuant to present law.

Proposed law retains present law and requires there be an assistant secretary for the office of military affairs.

Proposed law establishes the office of military affairs and its assistant secretary. Proposed law also provides for the duties and determination of salary of the assistant secretary by the secretary.

(Amends R.S. 36:782(A); Adds R.S. 36:785.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1.      Change provisions of proposed law relative to the duties and functions of the assistant secretary of the office of military affairs.