
DIGEST

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HB 137 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Armes

Abstract: Changes the title "director" of the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) to "secretary" and eliminates certain additional duties of the Veterans' Affairs Commission.

Present law provides that the administrative head of the LDVA is the director.

Proposed law changes the present law title of the head of the LDVA from "director" to "secretary" to be consistent with the Title 36 provisions of present law.

Present law provides for the Veterans' Affairs Commission and provides for the following additional duties of the commission:

- (1) Adopt, amend, and promulgate rules and regulations.
- (2) Make and publish annual reports and special reports to the governor concerning the administration and general operation of the department.
- (3) Establish departmental divisions, when and if necessary, and adopt rules and regulations governing their operation.
- (4) Advise the director in problems concerning the welfare of veterans, fix the duties of the director, and determine what functions are necessary or desirable for him to perform in carrying out the purposes of present law.
- (5) Determine the general and administrative policies of the department.
- (6) Establish, discontinue, or consolidate service offices throughout the state, and in connection therewith, adopt and amend rules and regulations governing the qualifications and appointment of service officers and the conduct and operation of the service offices.

Proposed law repeals all present law duties except it retains the requirement that the commission advise the secretary in problems concerning the welfare of veterans and advise regarding the functions necessary or desirable for him to perform in carrying out the purposes of present law.

Present law authorizes the Veterans' Affairs Commission to establish the organization of the department in accordance with present law. Proposed law repeals this present law authority.

Present law provides that the director shall make recommendations to the commission rules he considers necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of present law and that the commission may approve, amend, or reject those recommendations in whole or in part and may propose and adopt new rules on its own accord. Proposed law repeals this present law authority.

Present law provides that whenever the Veterans' Affairs Commission determines that the administration of the functions of the department may be more efficiently performed by eliminating, merging, or consolidating existing offices or establishing new offices, the commission shall present a plan therefor to the legislature for its approval by statute. Proposed law repeals this present law authority.

Present law provides that the Veterans' Affairs Commission shall establish by rule appropriate guidelines and policies with respect to the expenditure of such funds. Proposed law repeals this present law authority.

Present law requires departmental division chiefs to be appointed with consent of the commission and provides that duties of the division chiefs shall be fixed by commission rules and regulations.

Proposed law allows the secretary to appoint division chiefs without the consent of the commission. Further removes requirement that division chief duties be set by rules and regulations.

(Amends R.S. 29:252(A), 253(C), 254, 255, 256, 257, 259, 261(A), and 385(C); Repeals R.S. 29:258 and R.S. 36:781(C)(2) and (3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Allow the secretary to appoint division chiefs without consent of the Veterans' Affairs Commission.
2. Remove requirement that duties of division chiefs be set by rules and regulations of the commission.