

## SB0126S01 compared with SB0126

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in SB0126 but was deleted in SB0126S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0126 but was inserted into SB0126S01.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Senator Peter C. Knudson proposes the following substitute bill:

### COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR VETERANS

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson**

House Sponsor: Paul Ray

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#### LONG TITLE

##### General Description:

This bill creates a veterans' services coordinator position and requires certain government entities to provide data to the Utah Department of Veterans' Affairs.

##### Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates a veterans' coordinator position and qualifications;
- ▶ requires government entities to designate a veterans' services specialist within each entity;
- ▶ requires contractors receiving government entity funds to participate;
- ▶ provides for training of agency veterans' services specialists; and
- ▶ requires an annual report to the Government Operations Interim Committee.

##### Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

### Other Special Clauses:

None

### Utah Code Sections Affected:

#### AMENDS:

**71-8-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapters 173 and 329

**71-8-3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 173

#### ENACTS:

**71-8-5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**71-8-6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

~~**71-9-6**~~ **71-8-7**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**71-8-8**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **71-8-1** is amended to read:

#### **71-8-1. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Contractor" means a person who is or may be awarded a government entity contract.

~~(1)~~ (2) "Council" means the Veterans' Advisory Council.

~~(2)~~ (3) "Department" means the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

~~(3)~~ (4) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

~~(4)~~ (5) "Government entity" means the state and any county, municipality, local district, special service district, and any other political subdivision or administrative unit of the state, including state institutions of education.

(6) "Specialist" means a full-time employee of a government entity who is tasked with responding to, and assisting, veterans who are employed by the entity or come to the entity for assistance.

~~(5)~~ (7) "Veteran" means:

(a) an individual who has served on active duty in the armed forces for at least 180

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consecutive days or was a member of a reserve component, and who has been separated or retired under honorable conditions; or

(b) any individual incurring an actual service-related injury or disability in the line of duty whether or not that person completed 180 days of active duty.

Section 2. Section 71-8-3 is amended to read:

### **71-8-3. Duties of executive director -- Services to veterans.**

The executive director shall:

(1) be responsible for the administration and the operation or support of the following veteran-related operations:

(a) Utah State Veterans' Nursing Homes and Programs;

(b) Utah State Veterans' Cemetery and Memorial Park;

(c) Title 71, Chapter 10, Veteran's Preference;

(d) any locally or federally funded programs for homeless veterans within the state; and

(e) any federally funded education services for veterans within the state;

(2) maintain liaison with local, state, and federal veterans' agencies and with Utah veterans' organizations;

(3) provide current information so that veterans, their surviving spouses and family members, and Utah veterans' organizations will be aware of benefits to which they are, or may become, entitled;

(4) reach out and assist veterans and their families in applying for benefits and services;

(5) develop and maintain a system for determining how many veterans are employed by the various government entities within the state and keeping track of them; ~~and~~

(6) cooperate with other state entities in the receipt of information to create and maintain a record of veterans in Utah~~[-]; and~~

(7) ~~report annually~~ prepare an annual report for presentation not later than November 30 of each year to the Government Operations Interim Committee on ~~the~~:

(a) all services provided to veterans; and

(b) the coordination of veterans' services by government entities with the department including the preparation of an annual report.

Section 3. Section 71-8-5 is enacted to read:

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### **71-8-5. Veterans' services coordinator qualifications -- Duties.**

(1) The veterans' services coordinator shall:

(a) be a veteran;

(b) have the education and experience in the use of computer technology, including databases, to collect, manage, and store information; and

(c) have some education and experience in public relations.

(2) The veterans' services coordinator shall be responsible to:

(a) identify all government entities that provide services for veterans;

(b) develop a process for coordination of veterans' services across all government entities; and

(c) develop and provide training for veterans' affairs specialists on the coordination of veterans' services with the department.

Section 4. Section **71-8-6** is enacted to read:

### **71-8-6. Government entity participation.**

(1) ~~Each government entity that provides services to or for veterans~~ **This section applies to:**

(a) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(b) the institutions of higher education listed in 53B-1-102;

(c) the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing;

(d) the Department of Public Safety; and

(e) the Department of Workforce Services.

(2) Each entity in Subsection (1) shall:

(a) assign a full-time employee, who ~~is~~ **may be** a veteran, as a veterans' services specialist **as part of their duties** to coordinate the provision of veterans' services with the department; and

(b) provide the department with nonprotected or nonprivate information about services provided to veterans.

(~~2~~3) Each ~~governmental~~ entity ~~that provides services to veterans~~ shall post on the entity's website:

(a) all services available for veterans from the entity and the contact information for the veterans' services specialist; and

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(b) a link to the department with the contact information for the veterans' services coordinator.

~~{ (3) Each government entity that does not provide services to veterans shall, upon a request for services by a veteran, direct the veteran to contact the department and provide the veteran with the department contact information.~~

‡ Section 5. Section ~~{71-9-6}~~71-8-7 is enacted to read:

~~{71-9-6}~~71-8-7. Government entity veterans' affairs specialist -- Duties --

### **Training.**

(1) Each government entity ~~{providing veterans with services}~~listed in Section 71-8-6 shall appoint or designate a full-time employee as a veterans' affairs specialist.

(2) The veterans' affairs specialist shall:

(a) coordinate the provision of veterans' services by the government entity with the department; and

(b) attend annual training by the department on coordination processes including providing nonprotected or nonprivate information to the department.

‡

### **Legislative Review Note**

~~as of 12-14-12 10:55 AM~~

~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~Section 6. Section 71-8-8 is enacted to read:

**71-8-8. Entity that provides no services -- Referral to department.**

A government entity that does not provide services to veterans shall, upon a request for services by a veteran, direct the veteran to contact the department, and provide the veteran with the department contact information.