

**VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT AUTHORITY**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor: Paul Ray

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ authorizes the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to award grants for certain purposes;
  - ▶ gives rulemaking authority to the department related to administration of the grants;
- and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**71-8-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapters 39 and 200

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

Section 1. Section **71-8-2** is amended to read:



28           **71-8-2. Department of Veterans and Military Affairs created -- Appointment of**  
29 **executive director -- Department responsibilities.**

30           (1) There is created the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

31           (2) The governor shall appoint an executive director for the department, after  
32 consultation with the Veterans Advisory Council, who is subject to Senate confirmation.

33           (a) The executive director shall be an individual who:

34           (i) has served on active duty in the armed forces for more than 180 consecutive days;

35           (ii) was a member of a reserve component who served in a campaign or expedition for  
36 which a campaign medal has been authorized; or

37           (iii) incurred an actual service-related injury or disability in the line of duty, whether or  
38 not that person completed 180 consecutive days of active duty; and

39           (iv) was separated or retired under honorable conditions.

40           (b) Any veteran or veterans group may submit names to the council for consideration.

41           (3) The department shall:

42           (a) conduct and supervise all veteran activities as provided in this title;

43           (b) determine which campaign or combat theater awards are eligible for a special group  
44 license plate in accordance with Section [41-1a-418](#);

45           (c) verify that an applicant for a campaign or combat theater award special group  
46 license plate is qualified to receive it;

47           (d) provide an applicant that qualifies a form indicating the campaign or combat theater  
48 award special group license plate for which the applicant qualifies;

49           (e) adopt rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
50 Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of this title; and

51           (f) ensure that any training or certification required of a public official or public  
52 employee, as those terms are defined in Section [63G-22-102](#), complies with Title 63G, Chapter  
53 22, State Training and Certification Requirements, if the training or certification is required:

54           (i) under this title;

55           (ii) by the department; or

56           (iii) by an agency or division within the department.

57           (4) (a) The department may award grants for the purpose of supporting veteran and  
58 military outreach, employment, education, healthcare, homelessness prevention, and

59 recognition events.

60 (b) The department may award a grant described in Subsection (4)(a) to:

61 (i) an institution of higher education listed in Section [53B-1-102](#);

62 (ii) a nonprofit organization involved in veterans or military-related activities; or

63 (iii) a political subdivision of the state.

64 (c) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
65 department shall make rules for the administration of grants, including establishing:

66 (i) the form and process for submitting an application to the department;

67 (ii) the method and criteria for selecting a grant recipient;

68 (iii) the method and formula for determining a grant amount; and

69 (iv) the reporting requirements of a grant recipient.

70 (d) A grant may be awarded by the department only after consultation with the

71 Veterans Advisory Council.

72 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as altering or preempting the

73 provisions of Title 39, Militia and Armories, as specifically related to the Utah National Guard.