



Introduced Version

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 33

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to the appropriate committee the topic of improving the professionalism of county veteran service officers so as to ensure veterans are fully served in every county in Indiana.

NIEZGODSKI

February 22, 2018 , read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and The Military.



SENATE RESOLUTION No. 33

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council
2 to assign to the appropriate committee the topic of improving
3 the professionalism of county veteran service officers so as to
4 ensure veterans are fully served in every county in Indiana.

5 *Whereas, Current Indiana Code requires every county to*
6 *have an accredited veteran service officer;*

7 *Whereas, The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs*
8 *requires annual re-accreditation to be able to represent*
9 *veterans in filing their disability claims and to seek other*
10 *federal veteran earned benefits;*

11 *Whereas, The state of Indiana has not funded county*
12 *veteran service officer training;*

13 *Whereas, Indiana requires annual training for re-*
14 *certification to maintain expertise as the disability claims*
15 *process changes often through the United State Department of*
16 *Veterans Affairs;*

17 *Whereas, County veterans service officers and city veterans*
18 *service officers can be appointed for four year terms;*



1 *Whereas, The duties of a county veterans service officer can*
2 *vary from county to county;*

3 *Whereas, In some instances county veterans service officers*
4 *are not trained or accredited in a timely manner and there are*
5 *no consequences, even though the failure to become accredited*
6 *is contrary to federal regulations and Indiana law;*

7 *Whereas, some county service officers do not become*
8 *accredited, do not retain their accreditation, or retire and must*
9 *be replaced;*

10 *Whereas, Initial training and replacement training are*
11 *crucial to the success and support of veterans who need*
12 *assistance;*

13 *Whereas, Current, initial county veterans service officer*
14 *training does not insure that candidates are capable of*
15 *developing a disability claim on behalf of the veteran they are*
16 *servicing, which is contrary to federal requirements;*

17 *Whereas, This results in county veterans service officers*
18 *having their work reviewed, corrected, and submitted by other*
19 *veteran service officers who were trained to national*
20 *standards;*

21 *Whereas, The best training provided to county veterans*
22 *service officers is administered by the National Association of*
23 *County Veteran Services Officers (NACVSO); and*

24 *Whereas, Some counties are not in compliance with Indiana*
25 *Code and have not replaced, in a timely manner, county*
26 *veterans service officers, thereby not sufficiently providing*
27 *services to veterans in their counties: Therefore,*

28 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
29 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*



1 SECTION 1. That the legislative council is urged to assign the
2 following topics to the appropriate study committee: 1. Funding
3 training for new county veterans service officers and re-accreditation
4 training for existing officers. 2. Extending the employment of county
5 veterans service officers to at least five years. 3. Notifying a county that
6 they are in violation of Indiana Code when they do not have a trained
7 and accredited county veterans service officer. 4. Ensuring that Indiana
8 accreditation standards are the same as the National standards.

