

HOUSE BILL No. 2362

By Committee on Veterans and Military

2-15

1 AN ACT concerning veterans and military; creating the Kansas military
2 and veteran task force; membership; powers and duties; reports.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas military and
6 veteran task force. The task force shall advise and make recommendations
7 to the governor, the legislature and the governor's military council
8 regarding matters of military installations and veterans issues in the state
9 of Kansas.

10 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following 23 members,
11 each to be appointed by the respective appointing authority on or before
12 September 1, 2019:

- 13 (1) The executive director of the governor's military council;
- 14 (2) the adjutant general or the general's designee;
- 15 (3) the director of the Kansas commission on veterans affairs office or
16 the director's designee;
- 17 (4) the director of the United States department of veterans affairs for
18 eastern Kansas or the director's designee;
- 19 (5) the chairperson of the standing house committee on veterans and
20 military, or its successor committee;
- 21 (6) the ranking minority member of the standing house committee on
22 veterans and military, or its successor committee;
- 23 (7) two members of the senate, one appointed by the president of the
24 senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
- 25 (8) the garrison commander at Fort Riley or the commander's
26 designee;
- 27 (9) the garrison commander at Fort Leavenworth or the commander's
28 designee;
- 29 (10) the garrison commander at McConnell air force base or the
30 commander's designee;
- 31 (11) the commander at Forbes field air national guard base or the
32 commander's designee;
- 33 (12) the director of the division of aviation of the Kansas department
34 of transportation or the director's designee;
- 35 (13) the mayor of the city of Leavenworth or the mayor's designee;
- 36 (14) the mayor of the city of Junction City or the mayor's designee;

1 (15) the mayor of the city of Wichita or the mayor's designee;

2 (16) two members representing veteran's service organizations,
3 appointed by the governor;

4 (17) two members representing businesses with a history of hiring
5 veterans or contracting with the military, appointed by the governor; and

6 (18) three members representing veterans, appointed by the executive
7 director of the governor's military council.

8 (c) The executive director of the governor's military council shall
9 serve as the chairperson of the Kansas military and veteran task force. The
10 chairperson shall call an organizational meeting of the task force on or
11 before November 1, 2019. At such organizational meeting, the members
12 shall elect a vice-chairperson from the membership of the task force. After
13 the organizational meeting, the task force shall meet quarterly, prior to the
14 scheduled meetings of the governor's military council.

15 (d) Upon notice by the chairperson, the task force may meet in an
16 open meeting at any time and at any place within the state of Kansas. A
17 majority of the members of the task force shall be considered a quorum.
18 Any action by the task force shall be my motion adopted by a majority of
19 the members present when there is a quorum.

20 (e) The mission of the Kansas military and veteran task force shall be
21 as follows:

22 (1) Enhance the value of military installations and facilities and the
23 quality of life for military personnel in the state of Kansas;

24 (2) analyze the incentives to military personnel stationed or assigned
25 to Kansas;

26 (3) coordinate efforts of military communities to enhance their value
27 to the state of Kansas;

28 (4) coordinate efforts between the public and private sectors to
29 maintain a significant United States department of defense presence in
30 Kansas;

31 (5) analyze the contributions and needs of members of the military,
32 military reserves, national guard and their families in Kansas;

33 (6) solicit input from veterans, businesses, non-governmental
34 organizations and military members in making policy recommendations;
35 and

36 (7) advise the executive director of the governor's military council
37 and the house standing committee on veterans and military, or its
38 successor committee, on issues and strategies related to military base
39 closure, realignments and mission changes.

40 (f) The task force shall submit an annual report to the governor,
41 legislature and the governor's military council on or before February 1.
42 This report shall include recommendations, including recommended
43 changes to current law, to fulfill the mission of the task force.

1 (g) Subject to the approval of the legislative coordinating council,
2 when required pursuant to an appropriation act, legislative members of the
3 task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid
4 amounts provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto. Non-
5 legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed by their
6 appointing authority.

7 (h) The provisions of this section shall expire on September 1, 2024.

8 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
9 publication in the statute book.