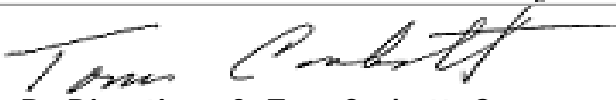


Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office

Subject: Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services	Number: 2013-03
 By Direction of: Tom Corbett, Governor	Date: November 11, 2013

WHEREAS, Veterans have rendered and continue to render extraordinary service to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's citizens include nearly one million veterans who have defended our nation's freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces, making our commonwealth home to the 4th largest population of veterans among the states; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have unique needs and have earned a wide array of benefits that are fragmented across the federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to providing a structure to provide coordinated, high-quality services to help veterans recognize and access the benefits and services which they earned and deserve; and

WHEREAS, The Adjutant General, Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs and the State Veterans Commission are responsible for championing Veterans Affairs at the federal, state and local levels and to ensure programs and services are delivered, investigated, reported and coordinated to provide timely and effective programs to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, There is a continued need to increase collaboration between state agencies to enhance administrative efficiency and optimize services for veterans; and

WHEREAS, Veterans require dedicated and strategic outreach, collaboration between many departments and partners at the federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, A cooperative advisory council would be best suited to bridge the gaps in coordination and communication at the state level and ultimately enhance the quality of services provided for our veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws of the commonwealth, do formally establish the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services, and do order and direct as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services is to review, evaluate and assess state veterans' programs in collaboration with senior staff from state agencies and commissions to increase information sharing, ensure program fidelity, coordinate complementary programs and facilitate meaningful enhancements in service accessibility to veterans' benefits and services within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2. Responsibilities.

- a. Review, evaluate and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all programs within the Executive Branch related to services and benefits for veterans.
- b. Serve as a coordinating body for all agencies that are responsible for programs related to services and benefits for veterans.
- c. Increase interoperability between administrators of veterans' programs.
- d. Coordinate efforts to establish a compendium of veterans' programs to enable quick reference and enhance access.
- e. Improve program fidelity by seeking input from the veterans' community with a standardized pre- and post- program survey.
- f. Report findings through the State Veterans Commission to the Governor.

3. Composition. The Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services will consist of the following members, each of whom will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

- a. The Deputy Adjutant General – Veterans Affairs from the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, to serve as Chairperson;
- b. The Chairman of the State Veterans Commission, to serve as Co-Chairperson;
- c. The Director of the Governor's Policy Office or designee;
- d. The Secretary of the Department of Education or designee;
- e. The Secretary of the Department of Corrections or designee;
- f. The Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole or designee;

- g.** The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs;
 - h.** The Secretary of Labor and Industry or designee;
 - i.** The Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare or designee;
 - j.** The Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs or designee;
 - k.** A State Civil Service Commissioner who is a veteran as required by Act 76 of 2011. In the event that more than one commissioner is a veteran, the Governor shall designate the commissioner to serve on the Council;
 - l.** A designee of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council;
 - m.** The Governor has the ability to appoint up to three at-large members to the Council. At-large members must be veterans.
- 4. Responsibilities of Commonwealth Agencies.** All agencies, boards and commissions under the Governor's jurisdiction shall provide an inventory of veterans' services and programs upon request of the Council. Each agency head shall designate one senior official who will be responsible for providing the Council with support, resources and information necessary to fulfill its duties.
- 5. Effective Date.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.
- 6. Termination Date.** This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.