



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Resolution 5 Printer's No. 142

Prime Sponsor: Boscola

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

SYNOPSIS:

Concurrent Resolution establishing a Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care

SUMMARY:

Senate Resolution 5 would establish a Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care. The Task Force would consist of 17 members: 2 Senators (one by the President Pro Tempore and one by the Minority Leader) and 2 House Members (one by the Speaker of the House and one by the Minority Leader). The Governor would appoint the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, Secretary of Health, Secretary of Human Services, Secretary of Drug & Alcohol, four women veterans, a representative of the health care provider community, a representative of the mental health care community, a representative of the substance abuse and addiction treatment provider community, a representative of the interests of sexual assault victims, and the Chair of the State Veterans' Commission. The Task Force would elect one of its members to serve as chairperson; study the health care needs of women veterans; identify other needs relating to the provisions of women veterans' health care services; consult with Federal, State and local entities in completing its study; conduct its business as follows - nine members physically present constitutes a quorum, actions should be ratified by a majority vote; members may be allowed to participate via conference call, meet as no fewer than five times, schedule a meeting upon written notice of eight members, hold public hearings as necessary, allow for reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses, require the Departments of Health and Military & Veterans Affairs to provide staff support. The Task Force would have the power to examine and analyze the current delivery of health care services to women veterans at the federal and State level; review and analyze law, procedures, practices and rules relating to delivery of health care services to women veterans; hold public hearings for the taking of testimony and the requesting of documents; and administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before the task force at the request of the chairperson.

Effective Date: The Resolution would take effect immediately - the Task Force would be established within 25 days - the first meeting would take place within 45 days of appointment - the final report would be due by November 30, 2018 - and the Task Force would expire on December 31, 2018.

BILL HISTORY:

SR 156 was introduced in 2015-16 and was reported by the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and unanimously adopted by the Senate but not taken up in the House. SR 262 was introduced in 2013-14, but did not receive any action.

Prepared by: N. Silcox 10/16/2017