

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4954

June 01, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Bolden and Weiss and referred to the Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.

A bill to amend 1965 PA 380, entitled  
"Executive organization act of 1965,"  
(MCL 16.101 to 16.608) by adding section 130.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 130. (1) The department shall partner with the department  
2 of health and human services to establish a joint advisory  
3 committee to develop and implement the initiative described in

1 subsection (2). Committee formation and membership must be jointly  
2 determined by the department and the department of health and human  
3 services.

4 (2) The committee shall develop and implement an initiative to  
5 increase awareness among the veterans and family members of  
6 veterans of this state of the programs and benefits for which they  
7 may be eligible as veterans and family members of veterans. All of  
8 the following apply to the initiative described in this subsection:

9 (a) The initiative must have the title, "Ask the Question".

10 (b) The object of the initiative is to encourage public and  
11 private agencies and organizations in the provider sector,  
12 including, but not limited to, health care, social services, and  
13 education, to ask the members of the populations they serve at the  
14 point of contact, "Have you or a member of your family served in  
15 the military?".

16 (c) The committee shall encourage the agencies and  
17 organizations described in subdivision (b) to provide an individual  
18 who answers the question described in subdivision (b) affirmatively  
19 with verbal guidance and printed information, developed and  
20 distributed by the committee, regarding state and federal programs  
21 or benefits that may be available to the individual as a veteran,  
22 or as a family member of a veteran, including general information  
23 regarding how and where to apply for or participate in those  
24 programs or benefits.

25 (d) The committee shall provide advice and guidance to the  
26 agencies and organizations described in subdivision (b) regarding  
27 best practices for directing a veteran, or a family member of a  
28 veteran, to a specific veterans' program or benefit that may be of  
29 assistance to the veteran, or the family member of a veteran, in

1 regard to his or her specific need.

2 (3) The printed information distributed under subsection  
3 (2)(c) must include a conspicuously placed disclaimer stating that  
4 the provision of guidance or information regarding veterans'  
5 programs and benefits that may be available to the individual  
6 receiving that guidance or information is for informational  
7 purposes only and is not an indication or determination of  
8 eligibility for those programs or benefits.

9 (4) The department may share with the department of health and  
10 human services information in its possession that is related to the  
11 needs of veterans and family members of veterans if necessary to  
12 facilitate the initiative described in this section, unless sharing  
13 that information is a violation of a state or federal law  
14 concerning privacy.

15 (5) As used in this section:

16 (a) "Committee" means the joint advisory committee established  
17 under subsection (1).

18 (b) "Department" means the department of military and veterans  
19 affairs.

20 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
21 unless Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No.4955 (request no.  
22 02658'21) of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.