

HOUSE BILL NO. 5267

November 12, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Witwer, Rogers, Neeley, Brixie, Dievendorf, Xiong, Byrnes, Young, B. Carter, Price, Longjohn, McKinney, Tate, Liberati, Weiss, Tsernoglou, Steckloff, Paiz, Scott, Mentzer, O'Neal, Glanville, Morgan, T. Carter, Andrews, Miller, Skaggs, McFall, Koleszar, Wooden and Breen and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 2016 PA 198, entitled

"An act to create the office of the Michigan veterans' facility ombudsman; and to prescribe the powers and duties of the office, the ombudsman, the legislative council, and the department of military and veterans affairs,"

by amending sections 1, 7, 12, and 13 (MCL 4.771, 4.777, 4.782, and 4.783), section 1 as amended by 2018 PA 395.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Administrative act" includes an action, omission,
3 decision, recommendation, practice, or other procedure of the
4 department.

5 (b) "Complainant" means a resident veteran, family member of a
6 resident veteran, legal guardian or individual with power of
7 attorney for a resident veteran, or legislator who files a
8 complaint under section ~~4.4(1)~~ **or a person who files a report of**
9 **abuse under section 4(2).**

10 (c) "Council" means the legislative council established under
11 section 15 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.

12 (d) "Department" means the department of military and veterans
13 affairs.

14 (e) "Legislator" means a member of the senate or the house of
15 representatives of this state.

16 (f) "Michigan veterans' facility" or "facility" means a
17 Michigan veterans' facility established under **former** 1885 PA 152 ~~7~~
18 ~~MCL 36.1 to 36.12, or any other facility for the care of veterans~~
19 ~~that is constructed or established by this state after the~~
20 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that amended this~~
21 ~~subdivision.~~ **or a veterans' facility as that term is defined in**
22 **section 2 of the Michigan veterans' facility authority act, 2016 PA**
23 **560, MCL 36.102.**

24 (g) "Office" means the office of the Michigan veterans'
25 facility ombudsman created under this act.

26 (h) "Ombudsman" means the Michigan veterans' facility
27 ombudsman.

28 (i) "Report of abuse" means a report of suspected or alleged
29 abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as those terms are defined in

1 **section 11 of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.11,**
 2 **concerning a resident veteran.**

3 (j) ~~(i)~~—"Resident veteran" means a veteran who is a resident
 4 of a Michigan veterans' facility or an individual who is a resident
 5 of a Michigan veterans' facility by virtue of the individual's
 6 relationship with a veteran.

7 (k) ~~(j)~~—"Veteran" means that term as defined in section ~~2a~~ of
 8 ~~1885 PA 152, MCL 36.2a.2~~ **of the Michigan veterans' facility**
 9 **authority act, 2016 PA 560, MCL 36.102.**

10 Sec. 7. Upon receiving a complaint under section ~~4-4(1)~~ **or a**
 11 **report of abuse under section 4(2)** and deciding to investigate the
 12 complaint **or report of abuse**, within 10 business days the ombudsman
 13 shall notify the complainant, the resident veteran or resident
 14 veterans affected, ~~and the department,~~ **and, for a report of abuse,**
 15 **the department of licensing and regulatory affairs.** If the
 16 ombudsman declines to investigate, the ombudsman shall notify the
 17 complainant within 10 business days, in writing, and inform the
 18 resident veteran or resident veterans affected of the reasons for
 19 the ombudsman's decision.

20 Sec. 12. The ombudsman shall submit to the council, the board
 21 of managers, and the legislature a semiannual report on the conduct
 22 of the office. A report under this section ~~shall~~ **must** include all
 23 of the following information for each Michigan veterans' facility
 24 during the preceding 6 months, at a minimum:

25 (a) The number of complaints received.

26 (b) The number of complaints concerning each of the following
 27 categories:

28 (i) The modification or cancellation of, or justification for,
 29 an administrative act.

(ii) A statute or rule.

(iii) Significant veteran health issues.

(iv) Significant veteran safety issues.

(v) A report of abuse.

(c) The number of complaints resulting in the initiation of an investigation.

(d) The number of investigations initiated by the ombudsman.

(e) The number of hearings.

(f) The number of reports of findings issued.

Sec. 13. (1) A resident veteran shall not be penalized in any way by a person or facility or the department as a result of filing a complaint **or a report of abuse**, communicating a complaint **or a report of abuse** to a legislator, or cooperating with the ombudsman in investigating a complaint **or a report of abuse**.

(2) A person or facility or the department shall not hinder the lawful actions of the ombudsman or employees of the office or willfully refuse to comply with any lawful demand of the office.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 103rd Legislature are enacted into law:

(a) House Bill No. 5263 (request no. H04349'25).

(b) House Bill No. 5268 (request no. H04350'25).

(c) House Bill No. 5269 (request no. H04351'25).

(d) House Bill No. ____ (request no. H04352'25).