

HOUSE BILL No. 6645

November 14, 2006, Introduced by Reps. Kolb, Bieda and Zelenko and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

A bill to create a veterans advocacy program within the department of military and veterans affairs; and to prescribe duties for certain state officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "veteran advocacy act".

3 Sec. 2. A veterans advocacy program is created within the
4 veterans affairs directorate of the department of military and
5 veterans affairs. Under the program, the directorate may do all of
6 the following:

7 (a) Coordinate with the county department of veterans affairs
8 in each county that has a county department of veterans affairs and
9 coordinate with the appropriate county officials in each county

1 that does not have a county department of veterans affairs to
2 assure that all veterans in this state are receiving all of the
3 federal, state, and local benefits to which they are entitled.

4 (b) Encourage all veterans statewide to apply for and receive
5 all of the federal, state, and local benefits to which they are
6 entitled.

7 (c) Create ways to disseminate information, including printed
8 and electronic forms of information, to educate veterans of this
9 state about benefits to which they are entitled.

10 (d) Distribute and disseminate the information identified in
11 subdivision (c) to veterans of this state.

12 (e) Update and evaluate the information and the distribution
13 of the information at least annually.

14 Sec. 3. The director of the veterans affairs directorate shall
15 annually report to the committees of the house of representatives
16 and the senate having jurisdiction over veterans affairs on the
17 implementation and effectiveness of the program.