

# HOUSE BILL No. 4217

February 15, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Farrington, Yaroch, Noble, Lucido, Barrett, Bellino, Santana, Pagan, Chang, Marino, Hornberger, Webber, Yanez, Griffin, Faris, Runestad, Robinson, LaFave, Howrylak, Lilly, Frederick, Chirkun, Hughes, Sheppard, Love, Allor, Kahle, Cole and Lasinski and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

A bill to create a veterans' suicide prevention task force within the Michigan veterans affairs agency; and to prescribe duties for certain state officials.

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

1           Sec. 1. No later than December 1, 2017, the Michigan veterans  
2 affairs agency shall form a special internal task force  
3 specifically named the Michigan veterans' suicide prevention task  
4 force. The duties of the task force are both of the following:

5           (a) To investigate the causes and prevention of suicides among  
6 returning Michigan veterans of the United States military.

7           (b) To prepare and present a comprehensive public report of  
8 its findings as provided in section 3.

9           Sec. 2. (1) The Michigan veterans' suicide prevention task  
10 force created in section 1 shall consist of 8 members as follows:

1 (a) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of  
2 representatives.

3 (b) One member appointed by the minority leader of the house  
4 of representatives.

5 (c) One member appointed by the secretary of the senate.

6 (d) One member appointed by the senate minority leader.

7 (e) One member chosen by the director of the Michigan veterans  
8 affairs agency who is a representative of that agency.

9 (f) One member chosen by the director of the department of  
10 military and veterans affairs who is a representative from that  
11 department.

12 (g) Two members chosen by the director of the department of  
13 health and human services who are representatives from that  
14 department.

15 (2) The member appointed by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives shall act as the chair of the Michigan veterans'  
17 suicide prevention task force.

18 (3) The Michigan veterans' suicide prevention task force shall  
19 meet periodically at the discretion of the chair to investigate and  
20 form recommendations concerning the issue of suicides among  
21 Michigan veterans.

22 (4) The members of the Michigan veterans' suicide prevention  
23 task force shall serve without compensation.

24 (5) The Michigan veterans affairs agency shall provide  
25 administrative and other support to the Michigan veterans' suicide  
26 prevention task force.

27 Sec. 3. The Michigan veterans' suicide prevention task force

1 shall compile and present a comprehensive report of its findings,  
2 including any recommendations for legislation, to the house of  
3 representatives and the senate on or before December 1, 2018.

4       Sec. 4. The Michigan veterans' suicide prevention task force  
5 shall be dissolved after presentation of its report as described in  
6 section 3.

7       Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the  
8 date it is enacted into law.