



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1273

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

330 ILCS 45/1

from Ch. 23, par. 3081

Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Defines "veteran" to mean any person who: (i) served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose last discharge or release was under conditions other than dishonorable; (ii) served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for training purposes, and was either awarded a service-connected disability or died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable; (iii) served in the National Guard or as a reservist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for training purposes; or (iv) is determined to be a veteran according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; provided, that in any case, the service of such person was entered into or served in Illinois, or such person has resided in the State for at least one day, except for the purpose of determining the residential eligibility of a deceased veteran's dependents.

LRB104 06365 KTG 16401 b

1 AN ACT concerning service members.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 1 as follows:

6 (330 ILCS 45/1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3081)

7 Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

8 "United States Armed Forces" means the United States Army,  
9 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

10 "Veteran" means any person who: (i) served on active duty  
11 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose last  
12 discharge or release was under conditions other than  
13 dishonorable; (ii) served on active duty in any branch of the  
14 United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for  
15 training purposes, and was either awarded a service-connected  
16 disability or died in such service under conditions other than  
17 dishonorable; (iii) served in the National Guard or as a  
18 reservist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces,  
19 including active duty solely for training purposes; or (iv) is  
20 determined to be a veteran according to the U.S. Department of  
21 Veterans Affairs; provided, that in any case, the service of  
22 such person qualified under items (i) through (iv) was entered  
23 into or served in Illinois, or such person has resided in the

1 State for at least one day, except for the purpose of  
2 determining the residential eligibility of a deceased  
3 veteran's dependents.

4 "Veteran service organization" means a post, ship, camp,  
5 chapter, or detachment of a congressionally chartered or state  
6 chartered organization that (i) is formed by and for veterans,  
7 (ii) has a paid membership of at least 15 individuals, and  
8 (iii) provides responsible aid, assistance, or services to the  
9 veteran community.

10 "Administrator of military veterans assistance" means the  
11 commanders of the various veteran service organizations, the  
12 superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission, or  
13 other persons whose duty it is, under the existing statutes,  
14 to care for, relieve or maintain, wholly or in part, any person  
15 who may be entitled to such assistance under the statutes of  
16 the State of Illinois. This Act shall not infringe upon the  
17 mandated powers and authorities vested in the Illinois  
18 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)