

**As Reported by the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public
Safety Committee**

136th General Assembly

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S. B. No. 179

Senator Johnson

Cosponsors: Senators Weinstein, Brenner, Cirino

To amend sections 341.02 and 5901.03 and to enact
section 341.43 of the Revised Code to verify the
veteran status of imprisoned individuals and
individuals facing imprisonment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 341.02 and 5901.03 be amended and
section 341.43 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as
follows:

Sec. 341.02. The sheriff shall make the following entries
in a suitable book, which shall be known as the "jail register,"
kept in the office of the jailer, and delivered to the successor
in office of such jailer:

(A) The name of each prisoner, and the date and cause of
~~his~~the prisoner's commitment;

(B) The date and manner of ~~his~~the prisoner's discharge;

(C) If the prisoner is verified as a veteran as a result
of an investigation conducted pursuant to section 341.43 of the
Revised Code, the veteran status of the prisoner.

The sheriff or jail administrator shall prepare written
operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of
conduct, and maintain the records prescribed by these policies
and procedures in accordance with the minimum standards for
jails in Ohio promulgated by the department of rehabilitation
and correction.

The court of common pleas shall review the jail's
operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of
conduct. If the court approves the policies, procedures, and
rules of conduct, they shall be adopted.

Sec. 341.43. (A) All of the following institutions or
entities shall designate as soon as practicable at least one
individual to perform the duties set forth in division (B) of
this section:

(1) Each institution that is under the control of the
department of rehabilitation and correction;

(2) Each county, municipal, municipal-county, and
multicounty correctional institution that has on its premises a
jail, workhouse, minimum security jail, community-based
correctional facility, or facility in which an individual shall
serve a term of imprisonment or prison term pursuant to section
2929.34 of the Revised Code for the type of criminal offense and
under the circumstances specified or referred to in that
section;

(3) Each court of common pleas, municipal and county
court, department of probation, and pre-trial diversion program;

(4) Each county veterans service commission.

(B) Each institution or entity referred to in division (A)
of this section shall do all of the following:

(1) Determine the number of individuals necessary to 47
perform the duties set forth in divisions (B) (4) to (6) of this 48
section; 49

(2) Upon determining the number of necessary individuals, 50
designate as soon as practicable that number of individuals to 51
perform the duties set forth in divisions (B) (4) to (6) of this 52
section; 53

(3) Train each designated qualified individual to use the 54
veteran's reentry search service operated by the United States 55
department of veterans affairs by seeking cost-free training 56
assistance from a representative of the veterans justice 57
outreach program operated by the department of veterans affairs 58
or other appropriate representative of the department. If an 59
institution or entity is unable to acquire cost-free assistance 60
from the department, the institution or entity may, at the 61
institution's or entity's own expense, retain individuals who 62
are knowledgeable about the veteran's reentry search service by 63
training or experience to assist in training designated 64
qualified individuals to use the service; 65

(4) Investigate and verify the veteran status of each 66
individual served by the institution or entity, appearing before 67
the institution or entity, or who is in the institution's or 68
entity's care or custody, and who is imprisoned or charged with 69
a criminal offense punishable by incarceration. The institution 70
or entity shall conduct investigations under division (B) (4) of 71
this section by using data provided by the veteran's reentry 72
search service operated by the United States department of 73
veterans affairs; 74

(5) For each individual verified as a veteran as a result 75
of an investigation conducted pursuant to division (B) (4) of 76

this section, note the individual's status as a veteran on all 77
appropriate records pursuant to rules adopted under division (C) 78
of this section; 79

(6) For each individual verified as a veteran as a result 80
of an investigation conducted pursuant to division (B) (4) of 81
this section, assist the individual in contacting veteran- 82
related services such as the department of veterans services, 83
county veteran service commissions, veteran service 84
organizations, a representative of the veterans justice outreach 85
program operated by the United States department of veterans 86
affairs, or community organizations that may assist veterans in 87
applying for any federal, state, or local veteran-related 88
resources. 89

(C) The director of rehabilitation and correction shall 90
adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section for 91
each of the institutions or entities under its control, 92
including rules establishing the types of records upon which an 93
individual's veteran status must be indicated pursuant to 94
division (B) (5) of this section. Institutions and entities 95
referred to in division (A) (2) or (4) of this section that are 96
not under the control of the department of rehabilitation and 97
corrections shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of 98
this section, including rules establishing the types of records 99
upon which an individual's veteran status must be indicated 100
pursuant to division (B) (5) of this section. 101

Sec. 5901.03. The veterans service commission shall select 102
one of its members as president, one as vice-president, and one 103
as secretary. The commission shall meet at least once each 104
month. A judge of the court of common pleas may remove, for 105
cause, any member of the commission appointed under section 106

5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring 107
among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired 108
terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 109

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited 110
to the following: 111

(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the 112
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation; 113

(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the 114
administration of the commission and the veterans service 115
office; 116

(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the 117
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter; 118

(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission 119
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of 120
county commissioners for approval; 121

(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination 122
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans 123
within the county~~+~~, which may include either of the following: 124

(1) Providing financial assistance to a veterans treatment 125
court to establish and fulfill an outreach program under this 126
section; 127

(2) Hiring and compensating a person who will work at a 128
veterans treatment court and provide assistance to the court as 129
specified by the terms of an outreach program established under 130
this section. 131

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for 132
ongoing education and training for veterans service 133
commissioners and staff; 134

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the	135
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code,	136
and to others, upon request;	137
(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for	138
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers	139
whose districts the county is within, through contractual	140
agreements or through other arrangements determined by the	141
commission to be most cost-effective;	142
(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and	143
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans	144
services;	145
(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter.	146
Section 2. That existing sections 341.02 and 5901.03 of	147
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	148