

As Reported by the House Veterans and Military Development Committee

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Sub. S. B. No. 179

Senator Johnson

Cosponsors: Senators Weinstein, Brenner, Cirino, Antonio, Blackshear, Blessing, Chavez, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Koehler, Landis, Lang, Manning, O'Brien, Patton, Reineke, Reynolds, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, Timken, Wilkin, Wilson

Representatives Richardson, Mathews, T., Lawson-Rowe, Dovilla, Hall, D., Lampton, McNally, Thomas, C.

To amend sections 341.02 and 5901.03 and to enact 1
section 341.43 of the Revised Code to require 2
incarcerating institutions to verify the veteran 3
status of incarcerated individuals. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 341.02 and 5901.03 be amended and 5
section 341.43 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 6
follows: 7

Sec. 341.02. The sheriff shall make the following entries 8
in a suitable book, which shall be known as the "jail register," 9
kept in the office of the jailer, and delivered to the successor 10
in office of such jailer: 11

(A) The name of each prisoner, and the date and cause of 12
~~his~~ the prisoner's commitment; 13

(B) The date and manner of ~~his~~ the prisoner's discharge; 14

(C) The prisoner's veteran status, if the prisoner is 15
verified as a veteran as a result of an investigation conducted 16
by a sheriff under section 341.43 of the Revised Code. 17

The sheriff or jail administrator shall prepare written 18
operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of 19
conduct, and maintain the records prescribed by these policies 20
and procedures in accordance with the minimum standards for 21
jails in Ohio promulgated by the department of rehabilitation 22
and correction. 23

The court of common pleas shall review the jail's 24
operational policies and procedures and prisoner rules of 25
conduct. If the court approves the policies, procedures, and 26
rules of conduct, they shall be adopted. 27

Sec. 341.43. (A) As used in this section: 28

(1) "VRSS" means the veterans reentry search service that 29
is operated by the United States department of veterans affairs. 30

(2) "Incarcerating institution" means all of the 31
following: 32

(a) Each institution that is under the control of the 33
department of rehabilitation and correction; 34

(b) Each county, municipal, municipal-county, and 35
multicounty correctional institution that has on its premises a 36
jail, workhouse, minimum security jail, community-based 37
correctional facility, or facility in which an individual shall 38
serve a term of incarceration or a prison or jail term pursuant 39
to section 2929.34 of the Revised Code for the type of criminal 40
offense and under the circumstances specified or referred to in 41
that section; 42

(c) An institution described in division (A) (2) (a) or (b) 43
of this section that confines an individual awaiting 44
disposition, in cases where an individual is charged with a 45
felony that is punishable by a term of incarceration, a 46
misdemeanor that is punishable by a term of incarceration, or a 47
traffic offense that is punishable by a term of incarceration. 48

(B) Each incarcerating institution shall do all of the 49
following: 50

(1) Register with VRSS; 51

(2) During the confinement booking process, obtain 52
personal information from each individual, including name, 53
social security number, and any other required information 54
necessary to determine whether the individual is a veteran; 55

(3) Not later than three days after each booking, access 56
VRSS to which the incarcerating institution is registered under 57
division (B) (1) of this section to verify or confirm if an 58
individual who is incarcerated or charged with a criminal 59
offense has served in the United States military; 60

(4) For each individual verified as a veteran as a result 61
of an investigation conducted pursuant to division (B) (3) of 62
this section, note the individual's status as a veteran on all 63
appropriate records pursuant to rules adopted under division (E) 64
of this section. 65

(C) An incarcerating institution is not required to access 66
VRSS if another incarcerating institution has complied with the 67
requirements of this section with respect to the individual and 68
charge that led to the specific incarceration. 69

(D) Each incarcerating institution shall train staff to 70
use VRSS to which the institution is registered. The institution 71

shall seek cost-free training assistance and computer software 72
installation from a representative of the veterans justice 73
outreach program operated by the department of veterans affairs 74
or other appropriate representative of the department. If an 75
institution is unable to acquire cost-free assistance from that 76
department, the institution may, at the institution's own 77
expense, retain individuals who are knowledgeable about VRSS, by 78
training or experience, to assist in training designated 79
qualified individuals to use VRSS, and may request financial 80
assistance under division (E) (3) of section 5901.03 of the 81
Revised Code. 82

(E) The director of rehabilitation and correction shall 83
adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section for 84
each of the incarcerating institutions under its control, 85
including rules establishing the types of records upon which an 86
individual's veteran status must be indicated. Incarcerating 87
institutions referred to in division (A) of this section that 88
are not under the control of the department of rehabilitation 89
and corrections shall adopt rules to implement the requirements 90
of this section, including rules establishing the types of 91
records upon which an individual's veteran status must be 92
indicated. 93

Sec. 5901.03. The veterans service commission shall select 94
one of its members as president, one as vice-president, and one 95
as secretary. The commission shall meet at least once each 96
month. A judge of the court of common pleas may remove, for 97
cause, any member of the commission appointed under section 98
5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring 99
among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired 100
terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 101

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited	102
to the following:	103
(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the	104
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation;	105
(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the	106
administration of the commission and the veterans service	107
office;	108
(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the	109
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter;	110
(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission	111
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of	112
county commissioners for approval;	113
(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination	114
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans	115
within the county r , <u>which may include any of the following:</u>	116
<u>(1) Providing financial assistance to a veterans treatment</u>	117
<u>court to establish and fulfill an outreach program under this</u>	118
<u>section;</u>	119
<u>(2) Hiring and compensating a person who will work at a</u>	120
<u>veterans treatment court and provide assistance to the court as</u>	121
<u>specified by the terms of an outreach program established under</u>	122
<u>this section;</u>	123
<u>(3) Providing financial assistance to incarcerating</u>	124
<u>institutions, under section 341.43 of the Revised Code, to</u>	125
<u>purchase the necessary computer hardware and software, and to</u>	126
<u>compensate for the cost of training and use of VRSS, if such</u>	127
<u>purchase or compensation is not provided by the United States</u>	128
<u>department of veteran affairs. This assistance is to aid in</u>	129

identifying veterans who are incarcerated or charged with 130
criminal conduct, so that these veterans can be assessed and, if 131
they qualify, placed in outreach programs, such as veterans 132
treatment courts, or other outreach programs provided by other 133
agencies. As used in this division, "VRSS" has the same meaning 134
as in section 341.43 of the Revised Code. 135

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for 136
ongoing education and training for veterans service 137
commissioners and staff; 138

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the 139
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, 140
and to others, upon request; 141

(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for 142
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers 143
whose districts the county is within, through contractual 144
agreements or through other arrangements determined by the 145
commission to be most cost-effective; 146

(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and 147
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans 148
services; 149

(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter. 150

Section 2. That existing sections 341.02 and 5901.03 of 151
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 152