A BILL

To amend section 5901.01 and to enact section 5901.40 of the Revised Code to require certain entities to inform veterans about health care benefits available to veterans.

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

Section 1. That section 5901.01 be amended and section 5901.40 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5901.01. As used in sections 5901.01 to 5901.37 of the Revised Code this chapter:

(A) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, "veteran" means either of the following:

(1) A former member of the armed forces of the United States who served on active military duty and received an honorable discharge or honorable separation, a member of the armed forces of the United States who died on active military duty, or a member of the armed forces of the United States missing in action more than ninety days;
(2) A member of the United States merchant marine to whom either of the following applies:

(a) The member has an honorable report of separation from the active duty military service, form DD214 or DD215.

(b) The member served in the United States merchant marine between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, and died on active duty while serving in a war zone during that period of service.

(B) As used in section 5901.08 and other sections of the Revised Code with regard to applications for financial assistance under sections 5901.02 to 5901.15 of the Revised Code, "veteran" means either of the following:

(1) A person who served in the armed forces of the United States on active military duty and was discharged from the service under honorable conditions, and who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or, while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the department of veterans affairs or department of defense as service-connected;

(2) A person who served in the United States merchant marine, who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or, while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the department of veterans affairs or department of defense as service-connected, and to whom either of the following applies:

(a) The person has an honorable report of separation from the active duty military service, form DD214 or DD215.

(b) The person served in the United States merchant marine between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, and died on
active duty while serving in a war zone during that period of service.

(C) "Veterans plot" means a plot of land in any cemetery, set apart to be exclusively used for interring the remains of deceased veterans.

(D) "United States merchant marine" includes the United States army transport service and the United States naval transport service.

Sec. 5901.40. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Home health agency" has the same meaning as in section 3701.881 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Hospital" has the same meaning as in section 3727.01 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Nursing home" has the same meaning as in section 3721.01 of the Revised Code, except that it does not include a nursing home that participates in the veteran community partnerships program administered by the United States department of veterans affairs.

(4) "Representative of the office of the state long-term care ombudsman program" has the same meaning as in section 173.14 of the Revised Code.

(5) "Residential care facility" has the same meaning as in section 3721.01 of the Revised Code.

(B) Each entity specified in division (C) of this section shall, at the time specified in that division, do both of the following for veterans:

(1) Inform veterans that they may be eligible for health
care benefits through the United States department of veterans affairs, including benefits regarding long-term care;

(2) Offer to assist veterans in contacting a veterans service commission that can assist them in accessing the health care benefits for which they may be eligible and, if a veteran requests that assistance, assist the veteran in contacting a veterans service commission.

(C) Division (B) of this section applies to all of the following:

(1) A hospital when it discharges an inpatient who the hospital knows is a veteran;

(2) A nursing home or residential care facility when it admits as a resident an individual who the home or facility knows is a veteran;

(3) A home health agency when it begins providing home health services to an individual who the agency knows is a veteran;

(4) A representative of the office of the state long-term care ombudsman program when the representative begins providing ombudsman services to an individual who the representative knows is a veteran.

Section 2. That existing section 5901.01 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.