

House Bill 767

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Williams of the 168th, Jackson of the 64th, Schofield of the 60th, and Beasley-Teague of the 65th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vital
2 records, so as to provide for the Department of Public Health to collect certain information
3 regarding suicides in this state; to provide for annual reports; to amend Article 1 of Chapter
4 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of
5 Veterans Service, so as to provide for the creation of the Commission on Veteran Suicide
6 Prevention; to provide for the composition and duties of such commission; to provide for
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 10 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vital records,
11 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "31-10-34.

13 (a) Beginning January 1, 2021, in addition to other information currently being collected,
14 the department shall provide for the collection of the following information regarding each
15 person who dies in this state who served in the armed forces of the United States:

- 16 (1) Whether the decedent served in the regular, reserve, or National Guard component
17 of the United States armed forces or the United States Coast Guard; the length and
18 location of such service; and the branch of the armed forces in which the decedent served;
19 (2) The location of the decedent's residence and death;
20 (3) The decedent's occupation, industry, or business;
21 (4) The cause of the decedent's death, and if by suicide, the method used; and
22 (5) The age, sex, and race or ethnicity of the decedent.

23 (b) The department shall annually create a report on veteran suicide in this state and shall
24 include in such report the information obtained pursuant to this Code section. Such report
25 shall be provided to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Lieutenant Governor,
26 and the Commission on Veteran Suicide Prevention."

27

SECTION 2.

28 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
29 Department of Veterans Service, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
30 follows:

31 "38-4-15.

32 (a) There is created within the Department of Veterans Service the Commission on
33 Veteran Suicide Prevention.

34 (b) The commission shall be composed of:

35 (1) The commissioner of veterans service who shall serve as chairperson;

36 (2) Two members who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor;

37 (3) One member who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of
38 the House of Representatives; and

39 (4) One member who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Lieutenant
40 Governor.

41 (c) The commission shall review each report prepared by the Department of Public Health
42 pursuant to Code Section 31-10-34 and shall make such recommendations to the Governor
43 and the General Assembly for preventing veteran suicides as it deems appropriate based
44 upon the data contained in such reports.

45 (d) The Department of Veterans Service shall provide such administrative support as
46 necessary for the commission to perform its duties."

47

SECTION 3.

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.