

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-2001 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of Veterans*  
3 *Services; processing of disability claims.*

4 [H 419]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 2.2-2001 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 2.2-2001. Administrative responsibilities of the Department.

9 A. The Department shall be responsible for the establishment, operation, administration, and  
10 maintenance of offices and programs related to services for Virginia-domiciled veterans of the armed  
11 forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents. Such services shall  
12 include, but not be limited to, benefits claims processing and all medical care centers and cemeteries for  
13 veterans owned and operated by the Commonwealth.

14 Subject to the availability of sufficient nongeneral fund revenues, including, but not limited to,  
15 private donations and federal funds, the Department shall work in concert with applicable State and  
16 Federal agencies to develop and deploy an automated system for the electronic preparation of veterans'  
17 disability claims *that ensures the collection of the necessary information to expedite processing of*  
18 *Virginia veterans' disability claims. The Department's development and deployment work shall be*  
19 *appropriately phased to minimize risk and shall include an initial replacement of the Department's*  
20 *existing case management technology, which replacement is required to support highly sophisticated*  
21 *electronic claims preparation.* The Commissioner shall ensure that the system is efficient and statutorily  
22 compliant.

23 B. The Department shall establish guidelines for the determination of eligibility for  
24 Virginia-domiciled veterans and their spouses, orphans, and dependents for participation in programs and  
25 benefits administered by the Department. Such guidelines shall meet the intent of the federal statutes and  
26 regulations pertaining to the administration of federal programs supporting U.S. Armed Forces veterans  
27 and their spouses, orphans, and dependents.

28 C. The Department shall adopt reasonable regulations to implement a program to certify, upon  
29 request of the small business owner, that he holds a "service disabled veteran" status.

30 D. As used in this chapter:

31 "Service disabled veteran" means a veteran who (i) served on active duty in the United States  
32 military ground, naval, or air service, (ii) was discharged or released under conditions other than  
33 dishonorable, and (iii) has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Department of  
34 Veterans Affairs.

35 "Service disabled veteran business" means a business concern that is at least 51% owned by one or  
36 more service disabled veterans or, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company  
37 or other entity, at least 51% of the equity ownership interest in the corporation, partnership, or limited  
38 liability company or other entity is owned by one or more individuals who are service disabled veterans  
39 and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more individuals who  
40 are service disabled veterans.

41 "Veteran" means an individual who has served in the active military, naval or air service, and who  
42 was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

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