

(1) VETERANS ARE INFORMED OF THE SERVICES, BENEFITS, AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THEM FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; AND

(2) GENERAL ISSUES RELATING TO VETERANS NEEDS ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BE ADDRESSED.

9-941.

(A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR FOR THE PROGRAM.

(B) THE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(C) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER AND COORDINATE THE PROGRAM.

9-942.

(A) THE OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM SHALL ACTIVELY HELP VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS BECOME AWARE OF AND ACCESS ANY SERVICE OR BENEFIT TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED INCLUDING:

- (1) TAX BENEFITS;
- (2) HEALTH CARE BENEFITS;
- (3) DISABILITY BENEFITS;
- (4) PENSION BENEFITS; AND
- (5) EDUCATION.

(B) THE DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM SHALL:

(1) SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS THROUGH THE SERVICE OR BENEFIT PROCESS; AND

(2) KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT AS TO THE STATUS OF EACH CLAIM OF A VETERAN, A VETERAN'S DEPENDENT, OR A VETERAN'S SURVIVOR.

9-943.

(A) (1) FOR THE PURPOSES OF REACHING ANY VETERAN, VETERAN'S DEPENDENT, OR VETERAN'S SURVIVOR IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SERVICES OR BENEFITS GRANTED BY THE LAW, THE DIRECTOR SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PLAN.

(2) IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DIRECTOR MAY:

(I) ENTER INTO CONTRACTS; AND

(II) WORK WITH GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,