

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 390 (HB 137)

2019 Regular Session

Armes

Prior law provided that the administrative head of the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) was the director.

New law changes the prior law title of the head of the LDVA from "director" to "secretary" to be consistent with provisions of existing law in Title 36 of the La. Revised Statutes.

Existing law provides for the Veterans' Affairs Commission and prior law provided for the following additional duties of the commission:

- (1) Adopt, amend, and promulgate rules and regulations.
- (2) Make and publish annual reports and special reports to the governor concerning the administration and general operation of the department.
- (3) Establish departmental divisions, when and if necessary, and adopt rules and regulations governing their operation.
- (4) Advise the director in problems concerning the welfare of veterans, fix the duties of the director, and determine what functions are necessary or desirable for him to perform in carrying out the purposes of prior law.
- (5) Determine the general and administrative policies of the department.
- (6) Establish, discontinue, or consolidate service offices throughout the state, and in connection therewith, adopt and amend rules and regulations governing the qualifications and appointment of service officers and the conduct and operation of the service offices.

New law repeals all prior law duties of the commission except the requirement that the commission advise the secretary in problems concerning the welfare of veterans and the functions necessary or desirable for the secretary to perform in carrying out the purposes of existing law.

Prior law authorized the Veterans' Affairs Commission to establish the organization of the department in accordance with prior law. New law repeals this prior law authority.

Prior law required the director to recommend to the commission rules he considered necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of prior law, and authorized the commission to approve, amend, or reject those recommendations in whole or in part and to propose and adopt new rules on its own accord. New law repeals this prior law authority.

If the Veterans' Affairs Commission determined that the administration of the functions of the department may be more efficiently performed by eliminating, merging, or consolidating existing offices or establishing new offices, prior law required the commission to present a plan of such changes to the legislature for its approval by statute. New law repeals this prior law authority.

Prior law required the Veterans' Affairs Commission to establish by rule appropriate guidelines and policies with respect to the expenditure of certain funds. New law repeals this prior law authority.

Prior law required departmental division chiefs to be appointed with consent of the commission and provided that duties of the division chiefs should be fixed by commission rules and regulations.

New law allows the secretary to appoint division chiefs without the consent of the commission, and removes the requirement that division chief duties be set by rules and regulations.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 29:252(A), 253(C), 254, 255, 256, 257, 259, 261(A), and 385(C); Repeals R.S. 29:258 and R.S. 36:781(C)(2) and (3))