

CHAPTER 129

MILITARY AND VETERANS

SENATE BILL 23-154

BY SENATOR(S) Sullivan and Hinrichsen, Baisley, Coleman, Gonzales, Liston, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Gardner, Ginal, Kolker, Lundeen, Marchman, Moreno, Pelton B., Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Parenti and Taggart, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Brown, Catlin, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, English, Epps, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McLachlan, Ortiz, Pugliese, Ricks, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE VETERANS ONE-STOP CENTER IN GRAND JUNCTION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 2022 SUNSET REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal** (24)(a)(V); and **add** (31)(a)(IX) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal.
 (24) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

~~(V) The Grand Junction veterans one-stop center established pursuant to section 28-5-713;~~

(31) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2030:

(IX) THE VETERANS ONE-STOP CENTER, KNOWN AS THE "WESTERN REGION ONE SOURCE", ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-5-713;

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-713, **amend** (1)(a), (1)(c), (3) introductory portion, (4)(f), and (5) as follows:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

28-5-713. Western region one source - veterans one-stop center - advisory board - fund - definition - repeal. (1) (a) ~~On and after November 1, 2018,~~ The division of veterans affairs may operate a veterans one-stop center in Grand Junction, KNOWN AS THE "WESTERN REGION ONE SOURCE", for the purpose of providing a central and accessible location where veterans, service members, and their family members in the western portion of the state may have access to assistance and resources. The division shall operate the veterans one-stop center subject to available appropriations from the general assembly. The division may staff the veterans one-stop center with employees of the department of military and veterans affairs, or the division may contract with one or more private vendors for the management of the facility.

(c) As used in this section, "veterans one-stop center" means a facility, KNOWN AS THE "WESTERN REGION ONE SOURCE", where government agencies, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, and other organizations collaborate to offer services for veterans and their families in a convenient central location. Services offered at the veterans one-stop center may include, but are not limited to, assistance for veterans in securing federal benefits, counseling services, employment support, education, life skills, and wellness support.

(3) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2023, the division, in consultation with the advisory board established pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, shall develop procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the veterans one-stop center. The division shall provide the procedures and the annual results of the procedures to:

(4) (f) The state treasurer shall transfer all unexpended and unencumbered money in the fund on September 1, ~~2023~~ **2030**, to the Colorado state veterans trust fund created in section 28-5-709.

(5) This section is repealed, effective September 1, ~~2023~~ **2030**. Before its repeal, the department of regulatory agencies shall review the veterans one-stop center operated by the division pursuant to this section in accordance with section 24-34-104.

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 28, 2023