



AN ACT REVISING THE DECENNIAL VETERANS' LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS STUDY; MOVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SURVEY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO THE MONTANA VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIVISION; REQUIRING THE INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS; REQUIRING THE PREPARATION OF A STUDY PLAN AND BUDGET ESTIMATE; REVISING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 10-2-901, 10-2-902, AND 10-2-903, MCA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 10-2-901, MCA, is amended to read:

"10-2-901. Decennial veterans' long-term care needs study. (1) On receipt of the most recent federal census data, the ~~department of public health and human services~~ Montana veterans' affairs division, in consultation with the ~~Montana veterans' affairs division~~ department of public health and human services, shall perform an analysis of the long-term care needs of veterans in the state, known as the decennial veterans' long-term care needs study.

(2) The study must determine the demographics of the Montana veteran population, including the number and age of veterans in each county and the type of long-term care needs of the population. The ~~long-term care assessment for veterans study~~ study must also include evaluation of the need for nursing home, domiciliary, and Alzheimer's disease support services, as well as ~~the various types of community and in-home care that are needed~~ any other care needs identified by the Montana veterans' affairs division and by stakeholders.

(3) The study must include a personal survey of the Montana veteran population, including online and paper options and focus groups.

(4) This study must be conducted in collaboration with stakeholders, including but not limited to

veterans' outreach organizations, legislators, caregivers, and other local groups that work directly with the Montana veteran population. The Montana veterans' affairs division may form an advisory committee comprised of stakeholders to assist with the survey.

~~(4)~~(5) The study must evaluate existing veterans' home services and the configuration of those services with respect to the needs identified.

~~(5)~~(6) The study must include an analysis of the need for additional state veterans' cemeteries, including their placement within the state.

(7) The Montana veterans' affairs division shall prepare an outreach and marketing plan prior to the start of the study."

Section 2. Section 10-2-902, MCA, is amended to read:

"10-2-902. ~~Department of public health and human services~~ Montana veterans' affairs division to conduct study. The staff of the ~~senior and long-term care division within the department of public health and human services~~ Montana veterans' affairs division shall conduct the decennial veterans' long-term care needs study. The staff of the ~~Montana veterans' affairs division~~ senior and long-term care division within the department of public health and human services shall provide support as needed."

Section 3. Section 10-2-903, MCA, is amended to read:

"10-2-903. ~~Survey report required~~ Reporting requirements -- plan and budget. (1) (a) During the interim prior to the availability of the most recent federal census data, the staff of the Montana veterans' affairs division shall present a plan for conducting the study required in 10-2-901, including a budget estimate, to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee.

(b) After hearing the study plan and budget estimate, the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee may request a committee bill with an appropriation to fund the study.

(2) The Montana veterans' affairs division shall provide at least one update to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee while the study is being conducted. The committee may request additional updates as needed.

(3) As soon as possible after the completion of the decennial survey study, the department of

~~public health and human services and the Montana veterans' affairs division, in consultation with the~~
~~department of public health and human services, shall prepare a detailed written report and present a detailed~~
~~report~~ it to the state administrative administration and veterans' affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-
11-210, including but not limited to results of the study, recommendations for legislative actions, and
recommendations for changes to the conduct of future studies."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 566, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 566

INTRODUCED BY M. BERTOGLIO, C. COCHRAN, E. TILLEMAN, C. SPRUNGER, B. BARKER, L.
BREWSTER, K. KORTUM, L. REKSTEN, J. DARLING

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