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SENATE BILL 275

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Harold Pope, Jr.

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS' SERVICES; PROVIDING THAT THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS WHO ARE OR ARE AT RISK FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 9-22-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2004, Chapter 19, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"9-22-7. DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.--The department is responsible for:

A. assisting veterans and their surviving spouses, children and gold star parents in the preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims against the United States arising by reason of military or naval service;

B. assisting veterans and their surviving spouses, children and gold star parents in establishing the rights and

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1 the procurement of benefits that have accrued or may accrue to  
2 them pursuant to state law;

3 C. disseminating information regarding laws  
4 beneficial to veterans and their surviving spouses, children  
5 and gold star parents; ~~and~~

6 D. cooperating with agencies of the United States  
7 that are or may be established for the beneficial interest of  
8 veterans, to which end the department may enter into agreements  
9 or contracts with the United States for the purpose of  
10 protecting or procuring rights or benefits for veterans; and

11 E. assisting veterans who are experiencing, or at  
12 risk for experiencing, homelessness to access services and to  
13 provide assistance to organizations offering services to those  
14 veterans."

15 - 2 -