



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 15.130

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: November 10, 2023

Subject: **Historic Legislative Package for Veterans in Massachusetts**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of a Historic Legislative Package for Veterans in Massachusetts.

Background: Governor Maura T. Healey filed legislation to increase benefits, modernize services and promote inclusivity for Massachusetts Veterans. [An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans \(HERO Act\)](#) will have positive impacts for hundreds of thousands of Veterans living in Massachusetts, including nearly 30,000 women Veterans and thousands of LGBTQ+ Veterans. This historic legislation marks the first time in 20 years that a Massachusetts Governor has specifically introduced a comprehensive and expansive legislative package dedicated to the welfare of Veterans.

Some key provisions of the legislation include expanding access to behavioral health treatment, increasing benefits for disabled Veterans, bolstering support for businesses that hire Veterans, updating the definition of a veteran, expanding the scope of the Veterans Equality Review Board, initiating a pilot program for LGBTQ+ couples denied IVF reimbursement by the Veterans Health Administration, and codifying medical and dental benefits.

Action

Required: Please share with all managers, staff, and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately

Attachment: Press Release: Historic Legislative Package for Veterans in Massachusetts