November 6, 2024

Secretary of the Commonwealth

McCormack Building

1 Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

Re: **Notice of Public Hearing**

**Executive Office of Veterans’ Services – 108 CMR 12.00 Districts and Duties of Veterans’ Agents**

Dear Secretary Galvin,

Pursuant to any statutory and regulatory requirements, please find the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing regarding Regulations the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans’ Services (“EOVS”) has promulgated a change in the regulation that governs the districts and duties of veterans’ agents. The existing regulation states that Veteran Service Officers will assist veterans in filing VA claims but it is silent regarding compliance with VA regulations for filing claims. This revision ensures compliance with federal regulations at 38 CFR 14.629. The existing regulation governs municipal Veterans Service Officers and how they operate. The revision provides that EOVS will provide resources to comply with the existing standards.

The proposed citation for said Regulations is **108 CMR 12.00: Districts and Duties of Veterans’ Agents.** The proposed Regulations are authorized by 108 CMR 12.00: M.G.L. c. 115, § 2 and c. 30A, § 3.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Deacon

General Counsel

Executive Office of Veterans’ Services

(617) 548-2413 (Cell)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised that, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, §2, Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services (“EOVS”) will hold a public hearing for the purpose of hearing any comments in connection with the proposed Regulations at 108 CMR 12.00: Medical Care – Districts and Duties of Veterans’ Agents. The existing regulation states that Veteran Service Officers will assist veterans in filing VA claims but it is silent regarding compliance with VA regulations for filing claims. This revision ensures compliance with federal regulations at 38 CFR 14.629. The existing regulation governs municipal Veterans Service Officers and how they operate. The revision provides that EOVS will provide resources to comply with the existing standards.

EOVS will hold this public hearing remotely on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams at the following link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2EwOTE3NmEtNTBjMi00OTJkLThmZTktNDNkZjAzMmI0NmJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ce9ffe53-8cfa-4b3b-b55c-9aab7d137205%22%7d>

Or Meeting ID: 267 866 815 060

Passcode: SmFbfA

A copy of the proposed Regulations referenced above may be viewed by visiting

Any person who would like to offer comments may participate in the public hearing at the date and time indicated above or submit written comments. Those who wish to receive a written copy of the proposed Regulations, or to submit written comments, may do so by sending an email to [jenna.buonopane5@mass.gov](mailto:jenna.buonopane5@mass.gov) or by mail to:

Jenna Buonopane - Paralegal

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Veterans’ Services

600 Washington Street, 2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02111

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Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2024.

Attached please find the accompanying Small Business Impact Statement in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, §2.