AN ACT concerning veterans; relating to the Kansas commission on veterans affairs; requiring annual reporting by the executive director; amending K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-1209. The executive director of the Kansas commission on veterans affairs, in accordance with general policies established by the commission, shall:

(1) Collect data and information as to the facilities, benefits and services now or hereafter available to veterans and their relatives and dependents, and furnish such information to veterans and their relatives and dependents and local service officers of veterans' organizations.

(2) Prepare plans for a comprehensive statewide veterans' service program.

(3) Coordinate the program of state agencies which may properly be utilized in the administration of various aspects of the problems of veterans, and relatives and dependents of veterans, such as the department of social and rehabilitation services, Kansas department for children and families, the department of labor, the state board of education, the board of regents and any other state office, department, board or commission furnishing service to veterans or their relatives or dependents.

(4) Provide a central contact between federal and state agencies dealing with the problems of veterans and their relatives and dependents.

(5) Maintain records of cases handled by the executive director which shall show at least the following information: (a) The name of the veteran; (b) claim or case number of the veteran; and (c) amount of monthly benefit received by the veteran, so as to facilitate the necessary interchange of case histories among state administrative agencies and provide a clearinghouse of information.

(6) Provide such services to veterans and their relatives and dependents as are not otherwise offered by federal agencies.

(7) Provide a central agency to which veterans and their relatives and dependents may turn for information and assistance.

(8) Provide and maintain such field services as shall be necessary
to properly care for the needs of veterans and their relatives and dependents which shall not be operated in connection with the social and rehabilitation services Kansas department for children and families.

(i) (1) Prepare and submit a written report to the house committee on veterans, military and homeland security and to the governor, providing the following:

(A) A report on the progress made by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs and its executive director on the division of post audit's recommendations, as published in the May 2013 performance audit report, Kansas commission on veterans affairs: Evaluating selected financial controls at the Kansas soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans' home;

(B) information on the current financial control practices implemented by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs for the Kansas soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans' home, including, but not limited to, the current policies and procedures at both facilities;

(C) information on the current residential care services provided for veterans in the Kansas soldiers' home and the Kansas veterans' home;

(D) recommendations for legislation necessary to ensure that the needs of the veterans in Kansas are met, as described in K.S.A. 73-1207, and amendments thereto; and

(E) any other information deemed necessary.

(2) The executive director shall submit the report on or before the first day of the legislative session in 2015, and each year thereafter.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 73-1209 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.