

CHAPTER 145**(HB 377)**

AN ACT relating to pretrial services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

WHEREAS, years of war and multiple deployments have taken their toll on the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves, and have led to increased cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and other post-deployment difficulties; and

WHEREAS, combat veterans may not initially seek help to deal with their difficulties and may instead engage in activities that run afoul of the law; and

WHEREAS, providing help to combat veterans when problems first begin to arise can lead to a better future for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky has been and continues to be committed to assisting our veterans who have protected our nation's freedom by engaging in combat;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 431.515 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All trial courts in this Commonwealth having jurisdiction of criminal causes shall provide such pretrial release investigation and services as necessary to effectuate the purposes of KRS 431.510 to 431.550, including KRS 431.518, and, where practical, to assist in the earliest possible determination of:
 - (a) Whether a person is a needy person under KRS Chapter 31; *and*
 - (b) *Whether a person has been in combat by asking the question, "Have you served in the National Guard or the United States Armed Forces and been in combat?" during the pretrial release investigation.*
- (2) The Supreme Court may by appropriate rule or order establish and provide for such pretrial investigation and release services including, where practical, the taking of financial statements, and the court's determination of whether a person is a needy person as provided in KRS 31.120.
- (3) *Pretrial officers shall give contact information on the Kentucky National Guard Family Services Program within the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs or similar programs which provide a full range of services for combat veterans to any person who states that they have been in combat, including an opportunity to call the program during the interview.*

Signed by Governor April 13, 2010.