

4/7/2020

2020 Regular Legislative Session Veteran / Military Bills

Bill #/Status	Title and Summary	Sponsor
EHB 2188 C 78 L 20	Military veteran CDL waivers Authorizes the Department of Licensing (DOL) to waive the requirements for the knowledge examination for commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants for current or former military service members that meet certain federal requirements. Requires the DOL to provide an annual report to the House and Senate transportation committees and to the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs on the number and types of CDL military service member waivers granted beginning December 1, 2021. Fiscal Impact: \$107,000 in 2019-2021	Leavitt
ESHB 2411 C 229 L 20	Suicide prevention/providers Requires advanced suicide prevention training for certain mental health professionals. Requires optometrists, acupuncture, and Eastern medicine practitioners to complete one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Requires veterinarians and veterinary technicians to complete suicide prevention training. Requires the University of Washington to develop suicide prevention training for the construction industry. Fiscal Impact: \$135,905 in 2019-2021	HCW(Orwall)
SHB 2543 C 232 L 20	In-state residency/veterans Eligibility for in-state residency is expanded to the following categories of individuals: students on terminal, separation, or transition leave pending separation, or release from active duty, from the uniformed services with any period of honorable service after at least 90 days of active duty service and are eligible for veteran education benefits; students who are the spouse or child of an individual who has separated from the uniformed services with at least 10 years of honorable service and at least 90 days of active duty service, and who enter an institution of higher education in Washington within three years of the service member's date of separation; students who are eligible for, not just entitled to, transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits based on the student's relationship as a spouse, former spouse, or child to an individual who is on active duty in the uniformed services; students who are the spouse or dependent of active duty military stationed in the state and who are accepted to a higher education institution before the military member is reassigned out-of-state, as long as the spouse or dependent enrolls for the term in which they were accepted; students who are the spouse or dependent of active duty military residing in Washington, but stationed in an Oregon border county who are accepted to a higher education institution before the military member is reassigned out-of-state, as long as the spouse or dependent enrolls for the term in which they were accepted; and students who are separated from the uniformed services who were discharged due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, the residency statute is restructured for those categories of students who are active duty military and National Guard members and their spouses and dependents. Indeterminate	CWD(Paul)

Bill #/Status	Title and Summary	Sponsor
SHB 2544 C 178 L 20	<p>Definition of veteran</p> <p>Expands the definition of "period of war" for veterans' benefits in state pension systems, legal assistance, scoring criteria on civil service exams, and other programs, to include any armed conflicts where a campaign medal was awarded, rather than listing specific conflicts. Requires the Select Committee on Pension Policy and the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Plan 2 Retirement Board to study the provision of free military service credit to members awarded an expeditionary medal, but not a campaign medal.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: \$100,000 in 2021-2023</p>	APP(Paul)
SB 5197 C 297 L 20	<p>National guard ed. grants</p> <p>The Washington National Guard Conditional Scholarship program is renamed the Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant Program. A student is eligible for the grant program if: they are a member of the Washington National Guard; attend an accredited institution in Washington State; a baccalaureate degree or higher from any postsecondary institution has not been awarded; they are an active drilling member in good standing in the Washington National Guard; they have completed and submitted an application for student aid; they are a resident student; and they agree to fulfill the student's service obligation. Subject to the amount appropriated for the grants, an eligible student may receive an award up to the cost of tuition and fees, less other federal, state, and institutional grant or waiver aid. In addition, eligible students may receive up to \$500 for books and materials. Eligibility is limited to five years or 125 percent of the published length of the program in which the student is enrolled. Eligible participants in the grant program incur an obligation to repay the grant with interest, unless they serve in the Washington National Guard for one year for each year that they receive the award. The Office of Student Financial Assistance is responsible for administering the grant program, coordinating with the Washington Military Department in selecting eligible participants, and developing rules related to repayment obligations.</p>	Hobbs
SSB 5900 C 56 L 20	<p>LGBTQ coordinator/veterans</p> <p>The position of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer coordinator is created within WDVA. The coordinator's duties include: conducting outreach to, and providing assistance designed for the unique needs of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer veterans, and their spouses and dependents; assisting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer veterans in applying for an upgrade to the character of a discharge from service, or a change in the narrative reason for a discharge from service; assisting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer veterans, and their spouses and dependents, in applying for benefits; and developing and distributing information to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer veterans, and their spouses and dependents, regarding veterans' benefits and other benefit programs. WDVA must prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, and the appropriate legislative standing committees regarding the implementation and status of the coordinator by December 15, 2021. This report must include the number of veterans served, the type of assistance provided, and any recommendations for improving and expanding services provided by the coordinator.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: \$299,952 in 2019-2021</p>	WM(Randall)

Bill #/Status	Title and Summary	Sponsor
ESB 6626 C 328 L 20	<p data-bbox="245 186 1307 648">Military spouse liaison</p> <p data-bbox="245 186 1307 648">The position of military spouse liaison (liaison) is created within DVA. The liaison's duties include, but are not limited to: conducting outreach to and advocating on behalf of Washington military spouses; providing assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment; coordinating research on issues facing military spouses and creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their families; examining barriers and providing recommendations to help military spouses access high-quality child care; in coordination with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, developing resources to increase access to high-quality child care for military families; and in coordination with the Employment Security Department, developing a common form to help military spouses quickly find meaningful employment by highlighting specific skills, training, and education. The liaison is encouraged to periodically report to the relevant committees of the Legislature and participate in policy development related to military spouses.</p>	Conway

Fiscal Impact: \$129,901 in 2019-2021

Read the full text of these bills at: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/legislative-updates>