

*"Serving Those Who Served"*

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Title and Summary</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>ESHB 1213</b> C 76 L 16 Effective 6/9/2016	<b>County veterans assistance fund:</b> Modifies the definitions of "veteran" and "family" for the purposes of the Veterans' Assistance Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deletes references to RCW 41.04.005 and .007.</li> <li>Aligns WA State with the Federal definition of 180 days of active duty service.</li> <li>Allows an individual with a discharge for medical reasons (honorable conditions) OR a VA Service Connected Disability rating, to access the fund regardless of # of days served on active duty. Requires that the medical discharge be given for a condition listed as non EPTS – existing prior to service.</li> <li>Allows a National Guard member or Reservist to access the fund if they have been activated by Presidential call-up (regardless of # of days served) IF they are still serving in the National Guard or Reserve.</li> <li>Allows a National Guard member or Reservist to access the fund if they have completed their initial service obligation, even if they are not still in the Guard or Reserve.</li> <li>Allows the family of a servicemember killed in action to access the fund, even if the servicemember did not complete 180 days of active duty.</li> <li>Gives Counties the ability to pass bylaws so that they can expand eligibility for the fund.</li> </ul>	Orwall
<b>ESHB 1351</b> C 78 L 16 Effective 6/9/2016	<b>National Guard hunting license:</b> Requires the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue three types of recreational hunting licenses to resident full-time members of the Washington State Guard and National Guard at no charge.	Blake
<b>HB 2637</b> C 102 L 16 Effective 6/9/2016	<b>Historic cemetery preservation:</b> Creates the Washington state Historic Cemetery Preservation Capital Grant program in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The program's public benefits include: preserving the state's historic heritage, allowing historic cemeteries to continue serving communities, and honoring military veterans. Cemetery property owners, nonprofit organizations, and local governments are eligible to apply for grants for construction, renovation, or rehabilitation projects that preserve a cemetery's historic character, features, or maintain or improve its functions. Grants may be awarded biennially, subject to appropriation. Grant awards are capped at \$50,000, adjusted each biennium for inflation. No match may be required from applicants.	Manweller
<b>E2SHB 2793</b> C 90 L 16 Effective 6/9/2016	<b>Suicide education:</b> Establishes a Safe Homes Task Force (including WDVA participation) to develop suicide awareness and prevention education messages and training and implement advocacy efforts with key stakeholders to pair suicide prevention training with distribution of devices for safe storage of lethal means. Creates a Safe Homes Project to certify firearms dealers and firearms ranges that meet specified requirements as Safe Homes Partners. Requires licensed pharmacists to complete a one-time training on suicide assessment, treatment, and management.	Orwall
<b>SB 6202</b> C 12 L 16 Effective 6/9/2016	<b>National Guard employment rights:</b> Requires the Attorney General to take enforcement action to protect a state service member's employment rights after the Adjutant General has attempted to resolve the matter with the employer.	Hobbs
<b>SSB 6254</b> Gov Signed	<b>Purple Heart license plates:</b> Allows individuals qualified to display Purple Heart special license plates to purchase additional plates for use on more than one motor vehicle. Additional funds are deposited into the Stewardship account to be used for the State Veterans Cemetery and homeless veteran services.	Sheldon
<b>SB 6405</b> Gov Signed	<b>Civilian health program:</b> Exempts the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) from the definition of "health plans." Permits CHAMPVA coverage to be offered to groups other than to those set forth in statute.	Benton