
SENATE BILL 5711

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senator Hargrove

Read first time 02/10/97. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to bonuses for certain merchant marine veterans and
2 their spouses; and adding a new section to chapter 73.04 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 73.04 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Bonuses shall be paid to servicemen and exservicemen and
7 servicewomen and exservicewomen who served on active duty in the
8 merchant marine at any time during the period between September 16,
9 1940, through July 25, 1947, and who were citizens of Washington when
10 inducted into active service and certain surviving spouses of such
11 servicemen and servicewomen. The payments of bonuses are in the
12 amounts and subject to the conditions set forth as follows:

13 (a) To each such serviceman or servicewoman who served in the
14 merchant marine during the established period, the sum of two hundred
15 fifty dollars.

16 (b) To the surviving spouse of each such serviceman or servicewoman
17 who died while serving in the merchant marine during the established
18 period or who died at any time during the period after having served in
19 the merchant marine during the period as a result of injuries or wounds

1 received or disease contracted while in the merchant marine during the
2 period, the sum of two hundred fifty dollars, provided that the bonus
3 shall not be paid to any surviving spouse who has remarried.

4 (2) If there is no surviving serviceman or servicewoman or
5 surviving unremarried spouse, then no bonus shall be paid. In
6 addition, the two hundred fifty dollar payment specified under
7 subsection (1) of this section shall be reduced by any other amount
8 paid under the provisions of this section.

9 (3) A bonus shall not be paid to any serviceman or servicewoman who
10 has been separated from the merchant marine without an honorable
11 discharge or an honorable separation, nor to the surviving spouse of
12 such a serviceman or servicewoman.

13 (4) A bonus shall not be paid to any serviceman or servicewoman, or
14 to the surviving spouse of any such serviceman or servicewoman, unless
15 a claim is filed in writing with the director of the state department
16 of veterans affairs on or before five years after the effective date of
17 this section.

18 (5) If any serviceman or servicewoman or surviving spouse entitled
19 to a bonus or payment has received a bonus or gratuitous payment from
20 any other state, territory, or governmental authority, other than the
21 government of the United States, prior to making application under this
22 section, then the amount of the bonus or gratuitous payment shall be
23 deducted from the amount paid to each person under this section.

24 (6) The bonuses and payments provided shall be completely exempt
25 from all liability for any debt, tax, or obligation. This exemption
26 cannot be waived. The bonus or payment shall be nonassignable and
27 shall not be subject to pledge or hypothecation in any manner
28 whatsoever.

29 (7) The state department of veterans affairs shall have
30 responsibility for the administration of this section. The director of
31 the department is designated as the officer charged by law with the
32 payment of the bonuses, and the director shall adopt rules as necessary
33 for the distribution of the bonuses and for the proper administration
34 of this section.

35 (8) The state department of veterans affairs shall estimate the
36 amount necessary to pay the claims and administer this section and
37 include that amount as a separate item in its budget request submitted

1 for fiscal year 1999, and for each fiscal year thereafter during the
2 five-year time limit to make a claim for a bonus.

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