

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6143

As Passed House:

March 4, 2004

Title: An act relating to determining eligibility for veteran's regular or special license plates.

Brief Description: Determining eligibility for veteran's regular or special license plates.

Sponsors: By Senators Kastama, Winsley, Oke, Franklin, Rasmussen and Schmidt.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 3/1/04 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/4/04, 94-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Broadens the definition of veterans who are eligible for veterans license plates.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 27 members: Representatives Murray, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; G. Simpson, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Jarrett, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Cooper, Dickerson, Flannigan, Hankins, Hatfield, Hudgins, Kristiansen, Lovick, Mielke, Morris, Nixon, Rodne, Romero, Schindler, Shabro, Wallace, Wood and Woods.

Staff: Page Scott (786-7301).

Background:

During the 2002 legislative session, a broader definition of veteran was provided for certain purposes. The definition includes: (a) peacetime veterans and those who have fulfilled their initial military service obligation in any branch of the armed services and the National Guard and reserves; (b) members of the women's air forces services pilots; (c) those in the armed forces reserves, National Guard, or Coast Guard who have been called into federal service by a presidential select reserve call up for at least 180 cumulative days; (d) civil service crewmembers with service aboard a U.S. army transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946; and (e) those who served in the Philippine Armed Forces or Scouts in World War II.

The definition references several sections of the RCW that provide benefits for which veterans are eligible. These benefits include: admission to state veterans' homes, veterans' preference for employment, free license plates, county aid to indigent veterans, restrictions on sending veterans to alms houses; and county burials.

Summary of Bill:

The definition of veteran used to determine eligibility for free disabled veteran license plates is changed to refer to the broader definition of veteran.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This is a technical correction. It is important that we use this broader definition of veteran to recognize the contributions of peacetime veterans and the military personnel currently serving our country and deployed overseas.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Kastama, prime sponsor; and Heidi Audette, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.