

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5242

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to an internship program for wounded combat veterans.

Brief Description: Establishing an internship program for wounded combat veterans.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Hobbs, Hewitt, Haugen, Kastama, Fairley, Shin, Kline, Clements, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Tom, Brandland, Murray, Roach, Spanel, Kauffman, Rockefeller, Regala, Jacobsen, McAuliffe, Berkey, Carrell, Sheldon, Kilmer, Rasmussen, Holmquist and Honeyford).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 3/28/07, 3/30/07 [DP].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Establishes an internship program at the Washington State Department of Transportation for returning wounded combat veterans.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 21 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Flannigan, Vice Chair; Jarrett, Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Armstrong, Curtis, Dickerson, Hailey, Hankins, Hudgins, Lovick, Rodne, Rolfes, Sells, Simpson, Springer, B. Sullivan, Takko, Upthegrove, Wallace and Wood.

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7157).

Background:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has recently implemented a program to assist wounded veterans in transitioning military skills into civilian careers. The VDOT's Wounded Veteran Internship Program (Program) is designed to provide veterans with full-time temporary positions that match their military skills, or teach them new skills. The VDOT's Program is able to take advantage of the similarity between transportation jobs that

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require skills common to military personnel, such as mapping, planning, procurement, and quality control. Positions are for six months to two years and may result in permanent placement with the VDOT or other businesses that work with the VDOT.

Summary of Bill:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) must establish an internship program for returning wounded combat veterans. Positions may include, but are not limited to, engineering, construction trades, logistics, and project planning. The emphasis of the program should be to assist veterans who served in southern or central Asia (Operation Enduring Freedom) and the Persian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom). The WSDOT may adopt rules to implement this program. Placement of veterans as apprentices under existing apprenticeship programs is encouraged.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Returning wounded veterans may be unable to continue their military careers due to their injuries. This bill allows wounded veterans to return to civilian life and be trained for family wage jobs.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Hobbs, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.