

SENATE BILL REPORT

2EHB 1876

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 22, 2010

Title: An act relating to providing funds for disabled veterans through voluntary donations.

Brief Description: Providing funds for disabled veterans through voluntary donations.

Sponsors: Representatives McCune, Miloscia, Haler, Klippert, Campbell, Rodne, Schmick, O'Brien, Roach, Warnick, Short, Conway, Cox and Orcutt.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/03/09, 97-0; 2/10/10, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/22/10 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

Staff: Sharon Swanson (786-7447)

Background: The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is a cabinet level agency that provides assistance to the veteran population in Washington. The DVA provides an array of services to veterans, including: long-term health care for honorably discharged veterans through three state veteran homes; mental health counseling; homeless outreach; and transitional outreach programs.

The DVA estimates there are 670,628 veterans residing in Washington State.

Summary of Bill: The Disabled Veterans Assistance Account is created in the custody of the State Treasurer. Disbursement of funds must be on the authorization of the director of the DVA or the director's designee.

All money deposited into the account must be used by the DVA for activities that benefit veterans, including, but not limited to, providing programs and services that assist veterans with:

- the procurement of durable medical equipment and mobility enhancing equipment;
- emergency home and vehicle repairs;

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- emergency food or emergency shelter; and
- service animals.

Any retailer in the state may provide an opportunity for patrons to make voluntary donations to the Disabled Veterans Assistance Account on Veteran's Day and any additional days the retailer decides would be appropriate.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a good bill that will help veterans. The Veterans Legislative Coalition is fully supportive.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Mike Partridge, Veterans Legislative Coalition.