

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2720

As of February 16, 2010

Title: An act relating to the Washington soldiers' home.

Brief Description: Concerning the Washington soldiers' home.

Sponsors: Representatives Armstrong, Morrell, McCune, Miloscia, Finn, Appleton, Hunt, Alexander, O'Brien, Kelley, Conway and Campbell; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/11/10, 97-0.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Edward Redmond (786-7471)

Background: The Washington Soldier's Home (WSH), located in the city of Orting, was dedicated by the Legislature in May 1891, to provide eligible military veterans necessary personal and nursing care, shelter, and related services. The WSH campus comprises 188 acres of property and houses 38 buildings, including the Garfield Barracks. The Garfield Barracks, built in 1917, is the oldest building on campus and has not been used since 1980.

The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WSDVA) has administrative authority over WSH.

Summary of Bill: WSDVA is authorized to work with public or private entities on projects that utilize the property and facilities of WSH. Such projects include, but are not limited to, renovation and long-term lease of the Garfield Barracks building on campus. Long-term leases are subject to state agency real estate regulations under RCW 43.82.010 with the exception that the lease of WSH property may run for up to 75 years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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