

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5308

As of January 31, 2011

Title: An act relating to evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements.

Brief Description: Concerning evaluating military training and experience toward meeting certain professional licensing requirements.

Sponsors: Senators Kilmer, Hewitt, Regala, Conway, Kastama, Hobbs, King, Rockefeller, Swecker and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 1/31/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Staff: Ingrid Mungia (786-7423)

Background: The Department of Licensing (Department) regulates certain businesses and professions. Each regulated business and profession has a separate set of laws. Some businesses and professions, such as cosmetologists and security guards, are under the authority of the Director of the Department (Director) and others, such as architects and engineers, are under a board or commission charged with regulating the particular business or profession.

Cosmetology, Barbering, Manicuring, and Esthetics. The Department regulates cosmetology, barbering, manicuring, and esthetics. A person must be licensed to practice these professions. In order to be licensed, an applicant must complete the required education and successfully pass an examination. Applicants may complete the education requirements either by graduating from a school licensed by the Department or by completing a state-approved apprenticeship program.

Minimum training hours at a school consist of:

- cosmetologist, 1600 hours;
- barber, 1000 hours;
- manicurist, 600 hours;
- esthetician, 600 hours; and
- instructor-trainee, 500 hours.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Minimum training hours in an apprenticeship program consist of:

- cosmetologist, 2000 hours;
- barber, 1200 hours;
- manicurist, 800 hours; and
- esthetician, 800 hours.

Engineers and Land Surveyors. Engineers and land surveyors must be registered by the Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors (Board) in order to practice engineering or land surveying in Washington. Candidates for registration as an engineer or land surveyor must have eight years of appropriate work experience and must have successfully passed the required examinations. Applicants may substitute undergraduate study in an approved engineering or land surveying school or college for up to four years of the work experience requirements. The Board may also approve up to one year of appropriate postgraduate study.

Security Guards. Security guards are licensed by the Department and must satisfy training requirements established by the Director in order to be licensed.

Summary of Bill: The Department must develop a process to evaluate military training and experience that may be applied toward meeting the training and educational requirements for cosmetologists, barbers, manicurists, estheticians, instructor-trainees, and security guards. The Board must develop a process to evaluate military training and experience that may be applied toward meeting the training and educational requirements for engineers and land surveyors.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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 one of two bills dealing with this issue this session. The other bill is dealing with health care professions. As we see our service members leave the military and come back home and look for civilian jobs they are occasionally running into challenges, in particular having their military experience count. Veterans have a slightly higher unemployment rate. This is one of the things this bill is trying to correct. This bill helps acknowledge experience and knowledge rather than seat time. The Department of Defense (DOD) has solicited feedback from a number of military branches and service organizations and found that licensing credentialing can limit career options to separated service members. DOD has many highly qualified schools that train service members. There are a number of winners in this bill especially the veterans. Programs will utilize veterans well honed skills. The economy will benefit from this bill and open up seat time at schools. There is a broad acknowledgment that there are similar things going on in this area. Education is the key to digging ourselves out of this recession.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Kilmer, prime sponsor; Mark San Souci, Department of Defense State Liaison Officer; Ted Wicorek, Veterans Legislative Coalition; Steve Lindstrom, NW Career Colleges Federation.