

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2744

C 182 L 14
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying certain provisions governing veteran-owned businesses.

Sponsors: Representatives G. Hunt, Appleton, Tarleton and Freeman.

House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor

Background:

Veteran-Owned Businesses.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) certifies certain businesses as veteran-owned businesses. The DVA collects and maintains a list of certified veteran-owned businesses on its website and issues decals for businesses to identify themselves as veteran-owned businesses.

Businesses may submit an application to the DVA for certification. To qualify as a veteran-owned business, a business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a veteran or an active or reserve member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard, Coast Guard, or reserves.

The Legislature encourages state agencies to award 3 percent of all procurement contracts that are exempt from competitive bidding to veteran-owned businesses, including contracts by higher education institutions and contracts for public works and personal service. The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) keeps records of all veteran-owned businesses certified by the DVA.

Veteran Definition.

Veteran is defined generally as any person who has received an honorable discharge or a discharge for medical reasons with an honorable record and has served as:

- a member of any branch of the Armed Services, National Guard, or reserves and has fulfilled his or her initial military obligation;
- a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots;
- a National Guard, reserves, or Coast Guard member called into federal service for at least a cumulative period of 6 months;

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- a civil service crewmember in oceangoing service aboard a military transport vessel during World War II;
- a member of the Philippine Armed Forces or scouts during World War II; or
- a documented merchant mariner who received military commendation for oceangoing service aboard a military vessel during the Korean or Vietnam Wars.

Summary:

A qualifying veteran-owned business must be an enterprise incorporated in Washington as a domestic corporation or an enterprise with its principal place of business located in the state.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: June 12, 2014