
SENATE BILL 5691

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Hewitt, Conway, and Rolfes

Read first time 02/08/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' homes; amending RCW 72.36.020,
2 72.36.030, 72.36.035, 72.36.055, 72.36.070, 72.36.075, and 43.60A.075;
3 and adding a new section to chapter 72.36 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.36 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The "Walla Walla veterans' home" is established and maintained in
8 this state as a branch of the state soldiers' home, and is a home for
9 veterans, their spouses, or parents any of whose children died while
10 serving in the armed forces, who meet admission requirements contained
11 in RCW 72.36.030.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 72.36.020 and 1993 sp.s. c 3 s 4 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 The director of the department of veterans affairs shall appoint a
15 superintendent for each state veterans' home. The superintendent shall
16 exercise management and control of the institution in accordance with
17 either policies or procedures promulgated by the director of the
18 department of veterans affairs, or both, and rules ((and regulations))

1 of the department. In accordance with chapter 18.52 RCW, the
2 individual appointed as superintendent for either state veterans' home
3 shall be a licensed nursing home administrator. (~~The department may~~
4 ~~request a waiver to, or seek an alternate method of compliance with,~~
5 ~~the federal requirement for a licensed on-site administrator during a~~
6 ~~transition phase from July 1, 1993, to June 30, 1994.~~)

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 72.36.030 and 2008 c 6 s 503 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 All of the following persons who have been actual bona fide
10 residents of this state at the time of their application(~~, and who are~~
11 ~~indigent and unable to support themselves and their families~~) may be
12 admitted to a state veterans' home under rules as may be adopted by the
13 director of the department, unless sufficient facilities and resources
14 are not available to accommodate these people:

15 (1)(a) All honorably discharged veterans of a branch of the armed
16 forces of the United States or merchant marines; (b) members of the
17 state militia disabled while in the line of duty; (c) Filipino World
18 War II veterans who swore an oath to American authority and who
19 participated in military engagements with American soldiers; and (d)
20 the spouses or the domestic partners of these veterans, parents any of
21 whose children died while serving in the armed forces, merchant
22 marines, and members of the state militia. However, it is required
23 that the spouse was married to and living with the veteran, or that the
24 domestic partner was in a domestic partnership and living with the
25 veteran, three years prior to the date of application for admittance,
26 or, if married to or in a domestic partnership with him or her since
27 that date, was also a resident of a state veterans' home in this state
28 or entitled to admission thereto;

29 (2)(a) The spouses or domestic partners of: (i) All honorably
30 discharged veterans of the United States armed forces; (ii) merchant
31 marines; and (iii) members of the state militia who were disabled while
32 in the line of duty and who were residents of a state veterans' home in
33 this state or were entitled to admission to one of this state's state
34 veteran homes at the time of death; (b) the spouses or domestic
35 partners of: (i) All honorably discharged veterans of a branch of the
36 United States armed forces; (ii) merchant marines; and (iii) members of
37 the state militia who would have been entitled to admission to one of

1 this state's state veterans' homes at the time of death(~~(, but for the~~
2 ~~fact that the spouse or domestic partner was not indigent, but has~~
3 ~~since become indigent and unable to support himself or herself and his~~
4 ~~or her family)).~~ However, the included spouse or included domestic
5 partner shall be at least fifty years old and have been married to and
6 living with their spouse, or in a domestic partnership and living with
7 their domestic partner, for three years prior to the date of their
8 application. The included spouse or included domestic partner shall
9 not have been married since the death of his or her spouse or domestic
10 partner to a person who is not a resident of one of this state's state
11 veterans' homes or entitled to admission to one of this state's state
12 veterans' homes; and

13 (3) All applicants for admission to a state veterans' home shall
14 apply for all federal and state benefits for which they may be
15 eligible, including medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.36.035 and 2002 c 292 s 5 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 For purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates
19 otherwise:

20 (1) "Actual bona fide residents of this state" means persons who
21 have a domicile in the state of Washington immediately prior to
22 application for admission to a state veterans' home.

23 (2) "Department" means the Washington state department of veterans
24 affairs.

25 (3) "Domicile" means a person's true, fixed, and permanent home and
26 place of habitation, and shall be the place where the person intends to
27 remain, and to which the person expects to return when the person
28 leaves without intending to establish a new domicile elsewhere.

29 (4) "State veterans' homes" means the Washington soldiers' home and
30 colony in Orting, the Washington veterans' home in Retsil, (~~and~~) the
31 eastern Washington veterans' home, and the Walla Walla veterans' home.

32 (5) "Veteran" has the same meaning established in RCW 41.04.007.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 72.36.055 and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 4 are each amended
34 to read as follows:

35 The state veterans' homes (~~shall~~) may provide both domiciliary
36 and nursing care. The level of domiciliary members shall remain

1 consistent with the facilities available to accommodate those members:
2 PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall preclude the department
3 from moving residents between nursing and domiciliary care in order to
4 better utilize facilities and maintain the appropriate care for the
5 members.

6 **Sec. 6.** RCW 72.36.070 and 2008 c 6 s 506 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 There shall be established and maintained in this state a branch of
9 the state soldiers' home, under the name of the "Washington veterans'
10 home," which branch shall be a home for honorably discharged veterans
11 who have served the United States government in any of its wars,
12 members of the state militia disabled while in the line of duty, and
13 who are bona fide citizens of the state, ~~((and also))~~ the spouses or
14 domestic partners of such veterans, and the parents any of whose
15 children died while serving in the armed forces.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 72.36.075 and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 6 are each amended
17 to read as follows:

18 There shall be established and maintained in this state a branch of
19 the state soldiers' home, under the name of the "eastern Washington
20 veterans' home," which branch shall be a home for veterans ~~((and))~~,
21 their spouses, and the parents any of whose children died while serving
22 in the armed forces who meet admission requirements contained in RCW
23 72.36.030.

24 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.60A.075 and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 7 are each amended
25 to read as follows:

26 The director of the department of veterans affairs shall have full
27 power to manage and govern the state soldiers' home and colony, the
28 Washington veterans' home, ~~((and))~~ the eastern Washington veterans'
29 home, and the Walla Walla veterans' home.

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