
**Community Development, Housing &
Tribal Affairs Committee**

HB 2582

Brief Description: Concerning the department of veterans affairs.

Sponsors: Representatives Reeves, Johnson, Kilduff, MacEwen, McBride and Eslick; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires that the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Deputy Director and assistant directors, rather than all assistants and executive staff, hired by the Director be veterans.
- Changes the title of the managers of the state veterans' homes to "administrator."
- Requires the WDVA to provide a hiring preference to honorably discharged veterans when hiring administrators for state veterans' homes.

Hearing Date: 1/17/18

Staff: Kirsten Lee (786-7133).

Background:

The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) provides many services and benefits to veterans and their families, including counseling, employment, education, training, burial, housing, medical care, and relief programs. The Director of the WDVA (Director) conducts, controls, and supervises the WDVA. The Director also holds the power to appoint and employ personnel for the WDVA, including assistants and executive staff. The Director is required to designate a deputy from the executive staff to supervise the WDVA in his or her absence. The Director and all appointed assistants and executive staff must be veterans.

The WDVA operates four state veterans' homes: the Washington Veterans' Home located in Port Orchard; the Washington Soldiers' Home located in Orting; the Spokane Veterans' Home located

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in Spokane; and the Walla Walla Veterans' Home located in Walla Walla. Veterans with an honorable discharge, who reside in the state, and their spouses or domestic partners, are eligible to apply for admission to a state veterans' home. The veterans' homes provide both domiciliary and nursing care. The Director must appoint a superintendent to manage each state veterans' home. Each superintendent must be licensed by the Department of Health as a nursing home administrator.

Summary of Bill:

The WDVA Deputy Director and assistant directors appointed by the Director, rather than all assistants and executive staff, must be veterans.

The title of the individual appointed to manage each state veterans' home is "administrator," rather than "superintendent," consistent with the requirement that the individual be a nursing home administrator licensed by the DOH.

When hiring an administrator for a state veterans' home, honorably discharged veterans are given a preference.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.