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SENATE BILL 5021

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Frockt, Schoesler, Darneille, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Conway, Sheldon, Fortunato, Fain, Hasegawa, and Kuderer; by request of Attorney General

Prefiled 01/03/17. Read first time 01/09/17. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to pro bono legal services for military service  
2 members, veterans, and their families; and adding new sections to  
3 chapter 43.10 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) There is hereby created an office of  
6 military and veteran legal assistance within the office of the  
7 attorney general for the purpose of promoting and facilitating civil  
8 legal assistance programs, pro bono services, and self-help services  
9 for military service members, veterans, and their family members  
10 domiciled or stationed in Washington state.

11 (2) For the purposes of this section and section 2 of this act,  
12 the following definitions apply:

13 (a) The term "service member" means an active or reserve member  
14 in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the  
15 national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

16 (b) The term "veteran" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
17 41.04.005 and 41.04.007.

18 (c) The term "family member" means the spouse or domestic partner  
19 and dependent minor children of a service member or veteran.

20 (3) The attorney general may not provide legal assistance  
21 programs, pro bono services, or self-help services to a service

1 member, veteran, or family member with regard to a criminal  
2 prosecution.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of military and veteran legal  
4 assistance shall:

5 (1) Recruit and train volunteer attorneys, identify service  
6 programs available to perform pro bono services for service members,  
7 veterans, and their family members, and create and maintain a  
8 registry of the same;

9 (2) Assess and assign requests for pro bono services to volunteer  
10 attorneys and service programs registered with the office of military  
11 and veteran legal assistance; and

12 (3) Establish an advisory committee to include, among others,  
13 representatives from legal assistance offices on military  
14 installations in the state, the office of civil legal aid, the  
15 Washington state bar association's legal assistance to military  
16 personnel section, the Washington state veterans bar association, the  
17 Washington department of veterans affairs, the Washington military  
18 department, veteran service organizations, military support  
19 organizations, and organizations involved in coordinating,  
20 supporting, and delivering civil legal aid and pro bono legal  
21 services in Washington state. The committee shall provide advice and  
22 assistance to the attorney general regarding program design,  
23 operation, volunteer recruitment and support strategies, service  
24 delivery objectives and priorities, and funding.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The attorney general may apply for and  
26 receive grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or other contributions to  
27 help support and to be used exclusively for the operations of the  
28 office of military and veteran legal assistance.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
30 added to chapter 43.10 RCW.

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