

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESB 6626

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Creating the position of military spouse liaison.

**Sponsors:** Senators Conway, O'Ban, Hunt, Zeiger, Hobbs, Becker, Randall, Short, Brown and Wagoner.

**Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**  
**House Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Background:** The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is a state agency created in 1975. DVA's powers and duties include cooperating with local governments and the federal government, particularly regarding participation in federal grants-in-aid programs relating to veterans and veterans affairs. DVA provides many services to veterans and their families, including medical care, assistance with claims for benefits, estate management, counseling, and financial assistance. DVA assists veterans with education, training, and employment.

**Summary:** The position of military spouse liaison is created within DVA. The liaison's duties include, but are not limited to:

- conducting outreach to and advocating on behalf of Washington military spouses;
- providing assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment;
- coordinating research on issues facing military spouses and creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their families;
- examining barriers and providing recommendations to help military spouses access high-quality child care;
- in coordination with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, developing resources to increase access to high-quality child care for military families; and
- in coordination with the Employment Security Department, developing a common form to help military spouses quickly find meaningful employment by highlighting specific skills, training, and education.

The liaison is encouraged to periodically report to the relevant committees of the Legislature and participate in policy development related to military spouses.

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*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.*

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	47	0	
House	97	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** June 11, 2020