
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2544

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Paul, Dufault, Leavitt, Graham, Smith, Volz, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of veteran; amending RCW
2 41.04.005; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.04.005 and 2018 c 61 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section and RCW (~~(41.04.005,)~~) 41.16.220,
7 41.20.050, and 41.40.170 "veteran" includes every person, who at the
8 time he or she seeks the benefits of this section and RCW
9 (~~(41.04.005,)~~) 41.16.220, 41.20.050, or 41.40.170 has received an
10 honorable discharge, is actively serving honorably, or received a
11 discharge for physical reasons with an honorable record and who meets
12 at least one of the following criteria:

13 (a) The person has served between World War I and World War II or
14 during any period of war, as defined in subsection (2) of this
15 section, as either:

16 (i) A member in any branch of the armed forces of the United
17 States;

18 (ii) A member of the women's air forces service pilots;

19 (iii) A U.S. documented merchant mariner with service aboard an
20 oceangoing vessel operated by the war shipping administration, the

1 office of defense transportation, or their agents, from December 7,
2 1941, through December 31, 1946; or
3 (iv) A civil service crewmember with service aboard a U.S. army
4 transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in
5 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
6 or
7 (b) The person has received the armed forces expeditionary medal,
8 or marine corps and navy expeditionary medal, for opposed action on
9 foreign soil, for service:
10 (i) In any branch of the armed forces of the United States; or
11 (ii) As a member of the women's air forces service pilots.
12 (2) A "period of war" includes:
13 (a) World War I;
14 (b) World War II;
15 (c) The Korean conflict;
16 (d) The Vietnam era, which means:
17 (i) The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May
18 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of
19 Vietnam during that period;
20 (ii) The period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7,
21 1975;
22 (e) The Persian Gulf War, which was the period beginning August
23 2, 1990, and ending on February 28, 1991, or ending on November 30,
24 1995, if the participant was awarded a campaign badge or medal for
25 such period;
26 (f) The period beginning on the date of any future declaration of
27 war by the congress and ending on the date prescribed by presidential
28 proclamation or concurrent resolution of the congress; and
29 (g) (~~The following~~) Any armed conflicts, if the participant was
30 awarded the respective campaign badge or medal, or if the service was
31 such that a campaign badge or medal would have been awarded, except
32 that the member already received a campaign badge or medal for a
33 prior deployment during that same conflict(~~(: The crisis in Lebanon;~~
34 ~~the invasion of Grenada; Panama, Operation Just Cause; Somalia,~~
35 ~~Operation Restore Hope; Haiti, Operation Uphold Democracy; Bosnia,~~
36 ~~Operation Joint Endeavor; Operation Noble Eagle; southern or central~~
37 ~~Asia, Operation Enduring Freedom; Persian Gulf, Operation Iraqi~~
38 ~~Freedom; Iraq and Syria, Operation Inherent Resolve; and Afghanistan,~~
39 ~~Operation Freedom's Sentinel)~~).

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The select committee on pension policy
2 and the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 retirement
3 board, with the assistance of the office of the state actuary, the
4 department of retirement systems, the Washington state military
5 department, and the Washington state department of veterans affairs
6 shall study the provision of interruptive military service credit to
7 members of the Washington state retirement systems. The study shall
8 examine the current and projected eligibility of members and retirees
9 for military service credit, and associated costs. In particular, the
10 study must examine the difference in service credit and cost that
11 would be generated by expanding free military service credit to all
12 members who received an expeditionary medal, but not a campaign
13 medal.

14 (2) The department of retirement systems, the office of the state
15 actuary, the Washington state military department, and the Washington
16 state department of veterans' affairs must provide information or
17 conduct research as needed by the select committee on pension policy
18 or the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 retirement
19 board.

20 (3) To encourage consistency among the treatment of military
21 service among the Washington state retirement systems, the select
22 committee on pension policy and the law enforcement officers' and
23 firefighters' plan 2 retirement board must communicate their
24 preliminary recommendations to each other prior to October 30, 2020,
25 and, considering the preliminary recommendations of the other body,
26 issue final reports containing recommendations and analysis of the
27 potential cost of those recommendations to the appropriate committees
28 of the legislature by January 2, 2021.

--- END ---