

## Summary of Veterans Legislation

### 2003 Legislative Session

#### HB 2064 - Studying methods of avoiding military base closure

**Summary:**

The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs must conduct a study of Washington military facilities to determine and coordinate efforts needed to ensure the facilities retain their premier status with respect to their national defense missions. The joint committee must make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on actions needed to ensure the viability of military facilities. As part of the study, the joint committee must invite participation and input from experts, and consult with representatives and nonelected community leaders of each county and city containing a major military facility, and the military authorities of each military base in the state. The study must commence immediately after completion of the legislative session and continues until such time as the consensus of committee membership is to conclude.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on April 21 / Chapter 81, 2003 Laws.

#### SB 5049 - Veterans' history month

**Summary:**

Declares that November of each year will be known as veterans' history awareness month. Provides that the week in November in which veterans' day occurs is designated as a time for people of this state to celebrate the contributions to the state by veterans. Encourages educational institutions, public entities, and private organizations to designate time for appropriate activities in commemoration of the contributions of America's veterans.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on May 9 / Chapter 161, 2003 Laws.

#### SB 5189 - Korean Conflict veterans, higher education tuition exemption

**Summary:**

The governing boards of the state's public higher education institutions may waive all or a portion of tuition and services and activities fees for veterans of the Korean Conflict. In order to receive the waiver, veterans must have served on active duty in the military or naval forces of the United States any time between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955. Institutions are required to charge a registration fee of a least \$5.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on May 9 / Chapter 160, 2003 Laws.

#### SB 5273 - Veterans/employment exams

**Summary:**

Eliminates the restriction that veterans must claim scoring preference on civil service exams within 15 years of release from active military service.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on April 17 / Chapter 45, 2003 Laws.

#### SB 5358 - School diplomas for veterans

**Summary:**

Authorizes issuance of high school diplomas to veterans of the Korean conflict who were honorably discharged and left high school before graduation to serve in the Korean conflict.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on May 12 / Chapter 234, 2003 Laws.

## **SB 5463 - Overseas voting**

### ***Summary:***

Seven counties are authorized to participate in an Internet voting pilot project. The project must comply with standards of the Federal Voting Assistance Program and the United States Department of Defense. The project is open only to those service and overseas voters who are registered to vote and fit the existing definitions of those terms. The project applies to all elections conducted through December 31, 2004. Votes cast over the Internet are subject to a recount or an election contest, but the grounds may not include an allegation of invalidity due to the electronic nature of the votes. The Secretary of State and participating counties must inform registered overseas and service voters of the pilot project, and the e-mail addresses of all participating voters must be made available for political purposes. The Secretary of State must report to the Legislature on the results of the project.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor June 20 / Chapter 17, 2003 Laws 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session

## **SJM 8008 - Veterans' retirement**

### ***Summary:***

The federal government is asked to allow retired veterans who are also disabled to receive the full amounts of their retirement and disability entitlements.

**Status:** Filed with Secretary of State