
EHB 1283 – High School Diplomas

Summary: Expands to Vietnam era veterans, high school diploma eligibility for honorably discharged veterans who left high school before graduation to serve in the armed forces.

SHB 2580 – Military Employees' Paydates

Summary: National Guard and Washington State Guard members who are called to participate in state active duty must be paid: no later than seven days after the duty has ended; or no later than seven days after the end of the pay period. The trigger point for the seven days is determined by which event occurs first. This only applies to pay received from the Military Department for state active duty.

HB 2700 – Military Department Account

Summary: The military department active state service account is created in the state treasury and is subject to appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for claims and expenses for the organized militia for non-emergency activities, such as planning, training exercises, and other administrative duties.

HB 3104 - Expanding rights and responsibilities for domestic partnerships.

Summary: Various statutory rights and responsibilities provided to spouses are extended to state registered domestic partners. For veteran-related benefits these changes are:

- State colleges and universities must waive tuition for domestic partners of deceased or disabled veterans if certain conditions are met.
- Services for honorably discharged indigent veterans, such as residency in a veteran's home, are available to veterans' domestic partners.

SHB 3283 – Military Personnel / Taxes

Summary: Waives excise tax penalties and interest for businesses while the owner is on active duty in the military and engaged in an armed conflict outside of the country.

EHB 3360 – Time Certificate of Deposit

Summary: Increases the amount of funds available for the Linked Deposit Program for minority or women-owned businesses by \$25 million and creates a new \$15 million Linked Deposit Program for veteran-owned businesses.

SSB 5256 – Veterans / Property Tax Relief

Summary: Federal veterans benefits awarded for service-connected disability are deducted from the disposable income total of \$35,000 when computing the retired person property tax reduction.

SB 6237 – Armed Forces License Plates

Summary: References to Washington are deleted when referring to the National Guard special license plate, expanding eligibility to include the National Guard of any state.

In addition to spouses, other family members of living or deceased veterans and current service members may purchase an armed forces special license plate and receive a decal.

The eligibility criteria to receive a prisoner of war special license plate is changed from a veteran who was held captive during a period of war for more than 29 days to a veteran that was held captive and received a prisoner of war medal.

In addition to veterans, families of veterans may receive funds from the Stewardship Account.

SB 6371 – Tuition and Fee Waivers

Summary: Clarifies eligibility requirements and other terms for purposes of tuition waivers for families of eligible veterans and National Guard members.

Provides that tuition waivers for families of eligible veterans and National Guard members apply to the statutory waiver limits of institutions of higher education.

Requires institutions of higher education to report to the Legislature regarding implementation of the waivers.

SSB 6426 – Military Children

Summary: Establishes a task force to review the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and report recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2008.

SB 6447 – Military Personnel Leave

Summary: Provides that, during periods of military conflict, employees are entitled to up to 15 days of unpaid leave before their spouse is deployed or while their spouse is on leave from deployment.

Extends military leave of absence for public employees from 15 to 21 days each year.

SB 6465 – Temporary Fishing License

Summary: Active duty military personnel serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces may purchase a temporary combination fishing license at the resident rate.

SB 6678 – Special License Plates, Gold Star Parents

Summary: DOL may issue special license plates to mothers and fathers of armed forces members who died while in service to their country or as a result of that service. The Department of Veterans Affairs will certify those who are eligible.

This act is exempt from the requirement that DOL be reimbursed for the costs associated with establishing the new special plate as well as the moratorium on the issuance of new plates.

SJM 8024 – Vietnam War Veterans' Highway

Summary: The Legislature requests that the Commission name Highway 112 in Clallam County, between the junction of Highway 101 and the junction of Highway 113, the "Vietnam War Veterans' Memorial Highway." In its message to the Commission, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Washington State Department of Transportation, the memorial recognizes those who served in Vietnam and the sacrifices they made.