



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

**Definition of a Veteran  
for the purpose of state veterans benefits**

[SSHB 2014](#) – RCW [41.04.005](#), RCW [41.04.007](#)

- Starting June 6, 2024, the state of Washington's definition of "veteran," is expanding state veterans benefits to include:
  - Any veteran who is already eligible for federal Department of Veterans Affairs monetary benefits (non-service connected pension and disability compensation).
  - Veterans who were separated with less than honorable characterizations of service (discharges) due solely to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression or actions or statements related to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, regardless of characterization of service.
- This bill was Attorney General's Office request legislation, and it passed unanimously with bipartisan support.
- Examples of state veterans benefits may also include county veterans assistance fund programs, veterans preference in civil service employment, state parks passes, hunting & fishing licenses, admission to state soldiers and veterans homes, veteran homeownership down payment assistance programs, Department of Licensing and Department of Health licensing extensions, property tax relief and exemptions, and tuition reduction or waiver at public colleges. *These benefits or programs may have additional eligibility criteria.*
- The Department of Licensing license plate related sections of the new law have a later effective date of April 1, 2025.

**The Session Law**

Second Substitute House Bill 2014 Chapter 146, Laws of 2024 takes effect June 6, 2024 - <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/2014-S2.SL.pdf?q=20240531092137>

The Final Bill Report - <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/2014-S2%20HBR%20FBR%2024.pdf?q=20240531092137>

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**Chart of RCWs impacted by [SSHB 2014](#)**

<b>Revised Code of Washington</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Section</b>
<a href="#">RCW 2.48.070</a>	State Bar Act	Admission of veterans
<a href="#">RCW 2.48.090</a>	State Bar Act	Admission of veterans – Establishment of requirements if discharged
<a href="#">RCW 2.48.100</a>	State Bar Act	Admission of veterans – Effect of disability discharge
<a href="#">RCW 9.46.070</a>	Gambling – 1973 Act	Gambling commission – Powers and duties
<a href="#">RCW 28A.230.120</a>	Common School Compulsory coursework and activities.	High school diplomas—Issuance—Option to receive final transcripts—Notice
<a href="#">RCW 28B.15.012</a>	Higher Education College & University Fees	Classification as resident or nonresident student—Definitions
<a href="#">RCW 28B.15.621</a>	College & University Fees	Tuition waivers and textbook stipends—Veterans and national guard members—Dependents—Private institutions
<a href="#">RCW 28B.102.020</a>	Higher Education Educator conditional scholarship and repayment programs.	Definitions
<a href="#">RCW 41.04.005</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions	"Veteran" defined for certain purposes
<a href="#">RCW 41.04.007</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions	"Veteran" defined for certain purposes
<a href="#">RCW 41.04.010</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions	Veterans' scoring criteria status in examinations
<a href="#">RCW 41.06.133</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, State civil service law.	Rules of director—Personnel administration
<a href="#">RCW 41.08.040</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, Civil service for city firefighters.	Organization of commission—Secretary—Powers and duties of commission
<a href="#">RCW 41.12.040</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, Civil service for city police.	Organization of commission—Secretary—Powers and duties of commission
<a href="#">RCW 41.16.220</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, Firefighters' relief and pensions	Credit for military service
<a href="#">RCW 41.20.050</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, Police relief and pensions in first-class cities	Pension on retirement for years of service
<a href="#">RCW 41.40.170</a>	Public Employment, civil service, and pensions, Washington public employees' retirement system	Credit for military service
<a href="#">RCW 43.24.130</a>	Department of Licensing	License moratorium for persons in service—Rules

<a href="#">RCW 43.60A</a>	Department of Veterans Affairs	Adding a new section
<a href="#">RCW 43.60A.190</a>	Department of Veterans Affairs	Certified veteran-owned businesses
<a href="#">RCW 43.70.270</a>	Department of Health	License moratorium for persons in the service—Rules
<a href="#">RCW 46.18.210</a>	Motor Vehicles Special license plates	Armed forces license plates
<a href="#">RCW 46.18.270</a>	Motor Vehicles Special license plates	Pearl Harbor survivor license plates
<a href="#">RCW 46.18.280</a>	Motor Vehicles Special license plates	Purple Heart license plates
<a href="#">RCW 46.18.295</a>	Motor Vehicles Special license plates	Veterans & military personnel emblems
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.027</a>	Motor Vehicles Drivers' licenses—Identical cards	Armed forces, dependents
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.161</a>	Motor Vehicles Drivers' licenses—Identical cards	Issuance—Contents—Fee—Veterans, individuals meeting criteria for veterans
<a href="#">RCW 72.36.030</a>	Soldiers' and Veterans' Homes & Veterans' Cemetery	Admission--Applicants must apply for federal and state benefits
<a href="#">RCW 73.04</a>	Veterans & Veterans' Affairs	Adding a new section
<a href="#">RCW 73.04.042</a>	Veterans & Veterans' Affairs	Honorable discharge recorded—Veterans of Spanish-American War and World War I
<a href="#">RCW 73.08.005</a>	Veterans & Veterans' Affairs Veterans' relief	Definitions
<a href="#">RCW 73.16.010</a>	Veterans & Veterans' Affairs Employment & reemployment	Preference in public employment
<a href="#">RCW 73.16.120</a>	Veterans & Veterans' Affairs Employment & reemployment	Veteran employment demonstration campaign
<a href="#">RCW 77.32.480</a>	Fish and Wildlife. Licenses	Reduced rate licenses
<a href="#">RCW 84.39.020</a>	Property Taxes. Property tax exemption—Widows or widowers of veterans	Filing claim for exemption—Requirements

Note: this may not be a complete list.

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