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SENATE BILL 6895

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Benton, Rasmussen, McCaslin, Shin, Honeyford, and Carrell

Read first time 01/31/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to combat bonuses for veterans; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 73.04 RCW; creating a new section; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to show  
6 gratitude to our combat troops and military families for their  
7 outstanding service to our country. The legislature strives to be  
8 committed to our combat troops and military families. The legislature  
9 recognizes that military service entails many sacrifices, including  
10 significant personal and family financial sacrifices. The legislature  
11 acknowledges that military families often bear the emotional and  
12 financial costs of relocating to new areas, transferring homes,  
13 changing schools, and starting new jobs, all in the call of service.  
14 The legislature finds that a combat bonus will help assist military  
15 families in their time of need. The legislature intends that the money  
16 appropriated in this act will be used as a one-time service bonus to  
17 assist combat veterans and their families.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 73.04 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the department of  
4 veterans affairs shall pay each combat veteran a one-time service bonus  
5 in the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars.

6        (2) As used in this section, "combat veteran" means a person who:

7        (a) Served or is serving in any branch of the armed forces of the  
8 United States in the following conflicts: Operation Enduring Freedom,  
9 Persian Gulf, or Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

10       (b) Can show proof of receiving one of the following: (i) The  
11 global war on terrorism expeditionary medal; (ii) award of hostile fire  
12 pay; or (iii) a leave and earning statement listing hostile fire pay.

13       (3) The veteran must show proof that Washington state is his or her  
14 home of record. Documentation may include a copy of the military  
15 discharge papers or enlistment papers showing Washington state as the  
16 home of record.

17       (4) If the veteran is no longer serving in the military, he or she  
18 must have been honorably separated or discharged in order to receive  
19 the bonus.

20       (5) A person who has already received extra compensation or other  
21 benefits based upon claimed residence at the time of entry into such  
22 active service from any other state or territory is not entitled to  
23 compensation under this section.

24       (6) If the veteran is deceased, payment shall be made to his or her  
25 beneficiary.

26       (7) No claim for payment under this section is subject to  
27 garnishment, attachment, levy, or execution.

28       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The sum of . . . . dollars, or as much  
29 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending  
30 June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of veterans  
31 affairs for the purposes of this act.

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