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HOUSE BILL 1213

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Klippert, MacEwen, Moeller, Hayes, Moscoso, Ormsby, Muri, Kilduff, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to the definition of veteran for the purposes of  
2 the county veterans assistance fund; and amending RCW 73.08.005.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 73.08.005 and 2013 c 42 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8            (1) "Direct costs" includes those allowable costs that can be  
9 readily assigned to the statutory objectives of this chapter,  
10 consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the federal office  
11 of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated May 10, 2004.

12            (2) "Family" means the spouse or domestic partner, surviving  
13 spouse, surviving domestic partner, and dependent children of a  
14 living or deceased veteran, or a servicemember who was killed in the  
15 line of duty regardless of the number of days served.

16            (3) "Indigent" means a person who is defined as such by the  
17 county legislative authority using one or more of the following  
18 definitions:

19            (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:  
20 Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled  
21 assistance benefits, pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-

1 related veterans' benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits  
2 transferred electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid,  
3 medical care services, or supplemental security income;

4 (b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of up to one hundred  
5 fifty percent or less of the current federally established poverty  
6 level, or receiving an annual income not exceeding a higher  
7 qualifying income established by the county legislative authority; or

8 (c) Unable to pay reasonable costs for shelter, food, utilities,  
9 and transportation because his or her available funds are  
10 insufficient.

11 (4) "Indirect costs" includes those allowable costs that are  
12 generally associated with carrying out the statutory objectives of  
13 this chapter, but the identification and tracking of those costs  
14 cannot be readily assigned to a specific statutory objective without  
15 an accounting effort that is disproportionate to the benefit  
16 received. A county legislative authority may allocate allowable  
17 indirect costs to its veterans' assistance fund if it is accomplished  
18 in a manner consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the  
19 federal office of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated  
20 May 10, 2004.

21 (5)(a) ~~"Veteran" ((has the same meaning as defined in RCW~~  
22 ~~41.04.005 and 41.04.007, and in addition may include, at the~~  
23 ~~discretion of the county legislative authority and in consultation~~  
24 ~~with the veterans' advisory board, any other person who at the time~~  
25 ~~he or she seeks the benefits of RCW 73.08.010, 73.08.070, and~~  
26 ~~73.08.080;~~

27 ~~(a) Has received a general discharge under honorable conditions;~~  
28 ~~or~~

29 ~~(b) Has received a medical or physical discharge with an~~  
30 ~~honorable record)) means:~~

31 (i) A person who served in the active military, naval, or air  
32 service; a member of the women's air forces service pilots during  
33 World War II; a United States documented merchant mariner with  
34 service aboard an oceangoing vessel operated by the war shipping  
35 administration; the office of defense transportation, or their  
36 agents, from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946; or a civil  
37 service crewmember with service aboard a United States army transport  
38 service or United States naval transportation service vessel in  
39 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946  
40 who meets one of the following criteria:

1 (A) Served on active duty for at least one hundred eighty days  
2 and who was released with an honorable discharge;

3 (B) Received an honorable or general under honorable  
4 characterization of service with a medical reason for separation for  
5 a condition listed as non-existed prior to service, regardless of  
6 number of days served; or

7 (C) Received an honorable discharge and has received a rating for  
8 a service connected disability from the United States department of  
9 veterans affairs regardless of number of days served;

10 (ii) A current member honorably serving in the armed forces  
11 reserve or national guard who has been activated by presidential call  
12 up for purposes other than training;

13 (iii) A former member of the armed forces reserve or national  
14 guard who has fulfilled his or her initial military service  
15 obligation and was released with an honorable characterization of  
16 service.

17 (b) At the discretion of the county legislative authority and in  
18 consultation with the veterans' advisory board, counties may expand  
19 eligibility for the veterans assistance fund.

20 (6) "Veterans' advisory board" means a board established by a  
21 county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.035.

22 (7) "Veterans' assistance fund" means an account in the custody  
23 of the county auditor, or the chief financial officer in a county  
24 operating under a charter, that is funded by taxes levied under the  
25 authority of RCW 73.08.080.

26 (8) "Veterans' assistance program" means a program approved by  
27 the county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.010  
28 that is fully or partially funded by the veterans' assistance fund  
29 authorized by RCW 73.08.080.

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