
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1055

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilduff, Muri, Haler, Shea, Appleton, Klippert, Lovick, Stokesbary, Stanford, Jinkins, Reeves, MacEwen, Koster, Hayes, Barkis, Kloba, Frame, Ormsby, Bergquist, Goodman, Gregerson, Young, Kirby, Fey, Slatter, Sawyer, and Tarleton; by request of Attorney General)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to pro bono legal services for military service
2 members, veterans, and their families; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) There is hereby created an office of
6 military and veteran legal assistance within the office of the
7 attorney general for the purpose of promoting and facilitating civil
8 legal assistance programs, pro bono services, and self-help services
9 for military service members, veterans, and their family members
10 domiciled or stationed in Washington state.

11 (2) For the purposes of this section and section 2 of this act,
12 the following definitions apply:

13 (a) The term "service member" means an active or reserve member
14 in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the
15 national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

16 (b) The term "veteran" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
17 41.04.005 and 41.04.007.

18 (c) The term "family member" means the spouse or domestic partner
19 and dependent minor children of a service member or veteran.

20 (3) The attorney general may not provide legal assistance
21 programs, pro bono services, or self-help services to a service

1 member, veteran, or family member with regard to a criminal
2 prosecution.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of military and veteran legal
4 assistance shall:

5 (1) Recruit and train volunteer attorneys, identify service
6 programs available to perform pro bono services for service members,
7 veterans, and their family members, and create and maintain a
8 registry of the same;

9 (2) Assess and assign requests for pro bono services to volunteer
10 attorneys and service programs registered with the office of military
11 and veteran legal assistance; and

12 (3) Establish an advisory committee to include, among others,
13 representatives from legal assistance offices on military
14 installations in the state, the office of civil legal aid, the
15 Washington state bar association's legal assistance to military
16 personnel section, the Washington state veterans bar association, the
17 Washington department of veterans affairs, the Washington military
18 department, veteran service organizations, military support
19 organizations, and organizations involved in coordinating,
20 supporting, and delivering civil legal aid and pro bono legal
21 services in Washington state. The committee shall provide advice and
22 assistance to the attorney general regarding program design,
23 operation, volunteer recruitment and support strategies, service
24 delivery objectives and priorities, and funding.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The attorney general may apply for and
26 receive grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or other contributions to
27 help support and to be used exclusively for the operations of the
28 office of military and veteran legal assistance.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
30 added to chapter 43.10 RCW.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
32 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
33 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
34 act is null and void.

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