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HOUSE BILL 2164

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representative Roland.

Read first time March 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington citizens serving in the Middle East  
2 conflict; adding new sections to chapter 43.60A RCW; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 43.131 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
7 begin the process of paying the debt of honor owed to Middle East  
8 conflict veterans, and to ensure that this debt is eventually paid in  
9 full. The legislature finds that:

10 (1) Citizens of the state of Washington are rendering valuable  
11 active service in the armed forces of the United States in the Middle  
12 East conflict, and are fully deserving of the thanks, support, aid, and  
13 assistance of the United States and the state of Washington;

14 (2) The aid and assistance needed now and in the future by Middle  
15 East conflict veterans and their families and dependents, and owed to

1 them as a debt of honor by the United States and the state of  
2 Washington, takes and will take many different forms and therefore it  
3 is both necessary and prudent for the state of Washington to  
4 immediately begin the process of identifying these needs and to  
5 commence planning ways and means to adequately and efficiently provide  
6 needed aid and assistance;

7 (3) The provision of aid and assistance to Middle East conflict  
8 veterans and their families and dependents is, in the first instance,  
9 the responsibility of the federal government and therefore the  
10 provision of such aid and assistance by the state of Washington is  
11 intended to supplement, and not to replace, the efforts of the federal  
12 government;

13 (4) In numerous cases aid and assistance is urgently required by  
14 Washington citizens on active duty in the Persian Gulf and their  
15 families and dependents, thus demanding immediate, material state  
16 action.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of Middle East veterans  
18 affairs is hereby created as a separate office within the department of  
19 veterans affairs. The director of the department shall immediately  
20 appoint a coordinator to manage the office of Middle East veterans  
21 affairs, and shall assign such staff and resources to the office as  
22 shall be required to fully implement the intent of the legislature.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Upon appointment the coordinator of the  
24 office of Middle East veterans affairs shall prepare a preliminary  
25 action plan for the office, taking into account the current needs for  
26 aid and assistance by Middle East conflict veterans and their families  
27 and dependents, the potential for encouraging the voluntary activities  
28 of private groups and individuals at minimal state expense, and the

1 advisability of close cooperation with the United States department of  
2 defense, the United States department of veterans affairs, and other  
3 agencies of the federal government. The coordinator shall submit this  
4 action plan to the legislature for review within ninety days of the  
5 effective date of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Middle East veterans affairs  
7 advisory council is hereby created to advise the governor, the  
8 department, and the coordinator of the office of Middle East affairs.  
9 The advisory council shall consist of no more than fifteen and no less  
10 than five members appointed by and at the pleasure of the governor.  
11 Members shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be  
12 entitled to reimbursement for travel and other expenses under RCW  
13 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter  
17 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 1997:

- 18 (1) RCW 43.60A.\_\_\_\_ and 1991 c \_\_\_\_ s 2 (section 2 of this act);  
19 (2) RCW 43.60A.\_\_\_\_ and 1991 c \_\_\_\_ s 3 (section 3 of this act); and  
20 (3) RCW 43.60A.\_\_\_\_ and 1991 c \_\_\_\_ s 4 (section 4 of this act).

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 4 of this act are each  
22 added to chapter 43.60A RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
26 effect immediately.