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HOUSE BILL 2582

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Johnson, Kilduff, MacEwen, McBride, and Eslick; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of veterans affairs; amending  
2 RCW 43.60A.050, 72.36.020, 72.36.090, 72.36.100, 72.36.110, and  
3 72.36.150; and reenacting RCW 43.60A.100.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.60A.100 and 2017 c 192 s 2 and 2017 c 185 s 2 are  
6 each reenacted to read as follows:

7 The department of veterans affairs, to the extent funds are made  
8 available, shall: (1) Contract with professional counseling  
9 specialists to provide a range of direct treatment services to state  
10 veterans, including national guard and reservists, with military-  
11 related mental health needs, and their family members; (2) provide  
12 additional treatment services to Washington state Vietnam veterans  
13 for posttraumatic stress disorder, particularly for those veterans  
14 whose posttraumatic stress disorder has intensified or initially  
15 emerged due to war or combat-related stress; (3) provide an  
16 educational program designed to train primary care professionals,  
17 such as mental health professionals, about the effects of war-related  
18 stress, trauma, and traumatic brain injury; (4) provide informational  
19 and counseling services for the purpose of establishing and fostering  
20 peer-support networks throughout the state for families of deployed  
21 members of the reserves and the Washington national guard; (5)

1 provide for veterans' families, a referral network of community  
2 mental health providers who are skilled in treating deployment  
3 stress, combat stress, posttraumatic stress, ~~((and))~~ traumatic brain  
4 injury; and (6) offer training and support for volunteers interested  
5 in providing peer-to-peer support to other veterans.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.60A.050 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 115 s 5 are each  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 The director may appoint ~~((such assistants and executive staff))~~  
9 a deputy director and assistant directors as shall be needed to  
10 administer the department, all of whom shall be veterans. The  
11 ~~((director shall designate a))~~ deputy ~~((from the executive staff~~  
12 ~~who))~~ shall have charge and general supervision of the department in  
13 the absence or disability of the director, and in case of a vacancy  
14 in the office of director, shall continue in charge of the department  
15 until a successor is appointed and qualified, or until the governor  
16 shall appoint an acting director.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 72.36.020 and 2014 c 184 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 The director of the department of veterans affairs shall appoint  
20 ~~((a superintendent))~~ an administrator for each state veterans' home.  
21 The ~~((superintendent))~~ administrator shall exercise management and  
22 control of the institution in accordance with either policies or  
23 procedures promulgated by the director of the department of veterans  
24 affairs, or both, and rules of the department. In accordance with  
25 chapter 18.52 RCW, the individual appointed as ~~((superintendent for~~  
26 ~~either))~~ administrator for a state veterans' home shall be a licensed  
27 nursing home administrator and the agency shall provide preference to  
28 honorably discharged veterans in accordance with RCW 73.16.010.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.36.090 and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 8 are each  
30 amended to read as follows:

31 The ~~((superintendents))~~ administrators of the state veterans'  
32 homes are hereby authorized to:

33 (1) Institute programs of hobby promotion designed to improve the  
34 general welfare and mental condition of the persons under their  
35 supervision;

1 (2) Provide for the financing of these programs by grants from  
2 funds in the ((~~superintendent's~~)) administrator's custody through  
3 operation of canteens and exchanges at such institutions;

4 (3) Limit the hobbies sponsored to projects which will, in their  
5 judgment, be self-liquidating or self-sustaining.

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 72.36.100 and 1959 c 28 s 72.36.100 are each amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 The ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator of each institution referred  
9 to in RCW 72.36.090 may purchase, from the appropriation to the  
10 institution, for operations, equipment or materials designed to  
11 initiate the programs authorized by RCW 72.36.090.

12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 72.36.110 and 2008 c 6 s 507 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 The ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator of the Washington veterans'  
15 home and the ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator of the Washington  
16 soldiers' home and colony are hereby authorized to provide for the  
17 burial of deceased members in the cemeteries provided at the  
18 Washington veterans' home and Washington soldiers' home: PROVIDED,  
19 That this section shall not be construed to prevent any relative from  
20 assuming jurisdiction of such deceased persons: PROVIDED FURTHER,  
21 That the ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator of the Washington soldiers'  
22 home and colony is hereby authorized to provide for the burial of  
23 spouses or domestic partners of members of the colony of the  
24 Washington soldiers' home.

25 **Sec. 7.** RCW 72.36.150 and 1993 sp.s. c 3 s 3 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 The department of veterans affairs shall provide by rule for the  
28 annual election of a resident council for each state veterans' home.  
29 The council shall annually elect a chair from among its members, who  
30 shall call and preside at council meetings. The resident council  
31 shall serve in an advisory capacity to the director of the department  
32 of veterans affairs and to the ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator in  
33 all matters related to policy and operational decisions affecting  
34 resident care and life in the home.

35 By October 31, 1993, the department shall adopt rules that  
36 provide for specific duties and procedures of the resident council  
37 which create an appropriate and effective relationship between

1 residents and the administration. These rules shall be adopted after  
2 consultation with the resident councils and the state long-term care  
3 ombuds, and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

4 (1) Provision of staff technical assistance to the councils;

5 (2) Provision of an active role for residents in developing  
6 choices regarding activities, foods, living arrangements, personal  
7 care, and other aspects of resident life;

8 (3) A procedure for resolving resident grievances; and

9 (4) The role of the councils in assuring that resident rights are  
10 observed.

11 The development of these rules should include consultation with  
12 all residents through the use of both questionnaires and group  
13 discussions.

14 The resident council for each state veterans' home shall annually  
15 review the proposed expenditures from the benefit fund that shall  
16 contain all private donations to the home, all bequeaths, and gifts.  
17 Disbursements from each benefit fund shall be for the benefit and  
18 welfare of the residents of the state veterans' homes. Disbursements  
19 from the benefits funds shall be on the authorization of the  
20 ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator or ((~~his~~—~~or~~—~~her~~)) the  
21 administrator's authorized representative after approval has been  
22 received from the home's resident council.

23 The ((~~superintendent~~)) administrator or ((~~his~~—~~or~~—~~her~~)) the  
24 administrator's designated representative shall meet with the  
25 resident council at least monthly. The director of the department of  
26 veterans affairs shall meet with each resident council at least three  
27 times each year.

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