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**SENATE BILL 5861**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Ericksen, Hobbs, Baumgartner, Chase, Miloscia, O'Ban, Brown, Fortunato, Becker, Warnick, and Conway

Read first time 03/01/17. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to travel awards; adding a new section to chapter  
2 43.60A RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) It is the policy of the state that travel awards earned by  
7 state officers and state employees while conducting state business  
8 shall be used to reduce the costs of travel expenses of veterans in  
9 need of medical and health care. Whenever public funds are used to  
10 pay for travel or accommodations by a state officer or state  
11 employee, any travel award issued by any airline or hotel must accrue  
12 to the benefit of the state. In the event the issuing airline or  
13 hotel will not honor a transfer or assignment of any travel award,  
14 the state officer or employee shall report receipt of the travel  
15 award to the agency issuing the initial payment within ninety days of  
16 receipt. Travel awards earned by state officers and state employees  
17 must be transmitted by the receiving agency to the director within  
18 ninety days of receipt.

19 (2) The director shall be the custodian of travel awards earned  
20 by state officers and state employees and shall expend travel awards

1 for the benefit of veterans who must travel to receive medical and  
2 health care purchased with state and federal funds by the department.

3 (3) The department shall develop procedures to manage travel  
4 awards, including collecting travel awards from agencies or directly  
5 from airlines and hotels, making most efficient use of travel awards,  
6 and expending travel awards to reduce travel and accommodation costs  
7 for eligible veterans.

8 (4) For the purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Agency," "state employee," and "state officer" have the same  
10 meanings as in RCW 42.52.010.

11 (b) "Travel award" means any object of value awarded by any  
12 business providing commercial transportation or accommodations that  
13 can be used to reduce the cost of travel including, but not limited  
14 to, frequent flier miles, hotel points, discounts, and coupons.

15 (c) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in RCW 41.04.005 and  
16 41.04.007.

17 (5) The department shall engage in rule making and have  
18 procedures in place by the effective date of this section.

19 (6) This section takes effect January 1, 2018.

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