

VETO MESSAGE ON SB 6482

March 30, 1996

To the Honorable President and Members,  
The Senate of the State of Washington  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 6482 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to veterans' benefits;"

Senate Bill No. 6482 amends statutes that give preference in public employment to veterans who have served during specific armed conflicts. This bill adds to the list of eligible conflicts those that have occurred since 1975 and adds categories of veterans to those who currently receive preferences. The provisions of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2781, which I have already approved, and this legislation are nearly identical.

Senate Bill No. 6482 contains ambiguities and conflicting language regarding eligibility of veterans for different levels of preferences. These ambiguities would likely result in inconsistent interpretation of law and administrative difficulties for all levels of government responsible for carrying out these important programs. When government grants rights and benefits, it is critical that the law is clear and unambiguous.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 6482 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Lowry  
Governor