
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5164

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Hobbs, Shin, Rasmussen, Kilmer and Franklin)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the veterans conservation corps
2 program; amending RCW 43.60A.150; amending 2005 c 257 s 1 (uncodified);
3 adding new sections to chapter 43.60A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2005 c 257 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that many Washington citizens are veterans of
7 armed forces conflicts that have important skills that may be employed
8 in projects that help to protect and restore Washington's rivers,
9 streams, lakes, marine waters, and open lands, and help to maintain
10 urban and suburban wastewater and storm water management systems. The
11 legislature further finds that such work has demonstrated benefits for
12 many veterans who are coping with posttraumatic stress disorder or have
13 other mental health or substance abuse disorders related to their
14 service in the armed forces. The legislature further finds that these
15 projects provide an opportunity for veterans to obtain on-the-job
16 training, leading to certification in specific skill sets and to living
17 wage employment in environmental restoration and stewardship.
18 Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to create ((a)) the
19 veterans conservation corps program ((that provides)) to assist

1 veterans in obtaining training, certification, and employment in the
2 field of environmental restoration and management, and to provide state
3 funding assistance for projects that restore Washington's waters,
4 forests, and habitat through the ((primary)) participation of ((such))
5 veterans.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.60A.150 and 2005 c 257 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The Washington veterans conservation corps is created. The
9 department shall establish enrollment procedures for the program.
10 Enrollees may choose to participate in either or both the volunteer
11 projects list authorized in subsection (2) of this section, and the
12 training, certification, and placement program authorized in section 3
13 of this act.

14 (2) The department shall create a list of veterans ((with
15 posttraumatic stress disorder and related conditions)) who are
16 interested in working on projects that restore Washington's natural
17 habitat. ~~((The list shall be referred to as the veterans conservation~~
18 ~~corps.))~~ The department shall promote the opportunity to volunteer for
19 the veterans conservation corps through its local counselors and
20 representatives. Only veterans who grant their approval may be
21 included on the list. The department shall consult with the salmon
22 recovery board, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the
23 department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife,
24 and the state parks and recreation commission to determine the most
25 effective ways to market the veterans conservation corps to agencies
26 and local sponsors of habitat restoration projects.

27 ~~((The department shall submit a report to the appropriate~~
28 ~~committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009, on the use of~~
29 ~~veterans conservation corps members by state agencies and local~~
30 ~~sponsors of habitat restoration projects.))~~

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) The department shall assist veterans enrolled in the veterans
34 conservation corps with obtaining employment in conservation programs
35 and projects that restore Washington's natural habitat, maintain and
36 steward local, state, and federal forest lands and other outdoor lands,

1 maintain and improve urban and suburban storm water management
2 facilities and other water management facilities, and other
3 environmental maintenance, stewardship, and restoration projects. The
4 department shall consult with the workforce training and education
5 coordinating board, the state board for community and technical
6 colleges, the higher education coordinating board, the employment
7 security department, and other state agencies administering
8 conservation corps programs, to incorporate training, education, and
9 certification in environmental restoration and management fields into
10 the program. The department may enter into agreements with community
11 colleges, private schools, state or local agencies, or other entities
12 to provide training and educational courses as part of the enrollee
13 benefits from the program.

14 (2) The department may receive gifts, grants, federal funds, or
15 other moneys from public or private sources, for the use and benefit of
16 the veterans conservation corps program. The funds shall be deposited
17 to the veterans conservation corps account created in section 6 of this
18 act.

19 (3) The department shall submit a report to the appropriate
20 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008, on the status of the
21 veterans conservation corps program, including the number of enrollees
22 employed in projects, training provided, certifications earned,
23 employment placements achieved, program funding provided from all
24 sources, and the results of the pilot project authorized in section 4
25 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of veterans affairs may enter
27 into an agreement with a local government, community college, or other
28 entity for use of veterans conservation corps enrollees in a project or
29 projects, where the enrollees' training and work on the project or
30 projects will be commenced before June 30, 2008.

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

33 (1) The department shall collaborate with the state agencies
34 implementing the Washington conservation corps, created in chapter
35 43.220 RCW, to maximize the utilization of both conservation corps
36 programs. These agencies shall work together to identify stewardship

1 and maintenance projects on agency-managed lands that are suitable for
2 work by veterans conservation corps enrollees. The department may
3 expend funds appropriated to the veterans conservation corps program to
4 defray the costs of education, training, and certification associated
5 with the enrollees participating in such projects.

6 (2) By September 30, 2007, the department, in conjunction with the
7 state agencies identified in subsection (1) of this section, shall
8 provide to the office of financial management and to the appropriate
9 committees of the senate and house of representatives a report that:

10 (a) Identifies projects on state agency-managed lands that are
11 currently planned for veterans conservation corps enrollee
12 participation;

13 (b) Identifies additional projects on state agency-managed lands
14 that are suitable for veterans conservation corps enrollee
15 participation and for which funding is currently in place for such
16 participation; and

17 (c) Identifies additional projects on state agency-managed lands
18 for which project implementation has been funded or is included in the
19 agency's multibiennial stewardship plans, and that are suitable for
20 veterans conservation corps enrollee participation in the event that
21 additional funding is provided to the department for associated
22 training, education, and certification.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 The veterans conservation corps account is created in the state
26 treasury. All moneys appropriated to the account or directed to the
27 account from other sources must be deposited in the account. Moneys in
28 the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from
29 the account may be used only for purposes of the veterans conservation
30 corps program.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) The department shall seek to enter agreements with the national
34 park service, the United States forest service, the United States fish
35 and wildlife service, and other federal agencies managing lands in
36 Washington, for the employment of veterans conservation corps enrollees

1 in maintenance, restoration, and stewardship projects. Up to twenty
2 percent of the costs of the veterans conservation corps enrollees
3 participation in a federal project may be provided by the department,
4 including the costs of training provided on the project.

5 (2) By September 30, 2008, the department shall provide a report to
6 the governor and appropriate committees of the senate and house of
7 representatives regarding agreements entered with federal agencies to
8 employ veteran conservation corps enrollees on federal land projects,
9 and any revisions to the program needed to increase the number of these
10 agreements.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) During calendar years 2007 and 2008 the salmon recovery funding
14 board shall cooperate with the department of veterans affairs to inform
15 salmon habitat project sponsors of the availability of veterans
16 conservation corps enrollees to perform project work. From
17 applications submitted, the board and the department shall identify
18 projects that propose work suitable for corps enrollees and located
19 near where enrollees are based or may be created. The department may
20 provide the project applicants with information regarding the benefits
21 of employing a veterans conservation corps enrollee in the project,
22 including funding that the department may make available to assist with
23 the project. Such funding shall be considered by the salmon recovery
24 funding board as matched funding in evaluating the project for salmon
25 recovery funding board funding.

26 (2) As an element of the report required under section 3(3) of this
27 act, the salmon recovery funding board and the department shall jointly
28 report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate and
29 house of representatives regarding projects funded during the 2007 and
30 2008 grant cycles that employ veterans conservation corps enrollees.
31 The report shall include recommendations for increasing the use of
32 veterans conservation corps enrollees in salmon habitat projects that
33 receive funding from the salmon recovery funding board.

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