S-0243.1

## SENATE BILL 5035

## State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

**By** Senators Hobbs, Swecker, Marr, Roach, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, Hatfield, McAuliffe, and Haugen; by request of Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving veterans' access to services; and 2 creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The department of veterans affairs shall 5 study efficient ways to increase the department's access to veterans, 6 and to increase veterans' access to the state and federal assistance 7 programs for which they may be eligible. By December 1, 2009, the 8 department shall submit а report to the legislature with 9 recommendations. The report shall address:

10 (1) How the department can achieve a goal of identifying all 11 veterans in the state within five years;

12 (2) How the department can efficiently identify veterans as their13 population in the state continues to grow;

14 (3) How the department can identify veterans through referrals from
15 other state agencies that currently provide services to veterans;

16 (4) How the department can effectively inform veterans of the state 17 and federal programs for which they may be eligible;

(5) The potential costs and savings to the state that would resultif the department's recommendations were undertaken; and

SB 5035

1 (6) What legislation would be needed, if any, to undertake the 2 department's recommendations.

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