

SHB 2496 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Law & Justice

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) There is hereby created an office of  
4 military and veteran legal assistance within the office of the  
5 attorney general for the purpose of promoting and facilitating civil  
6 legal assistance programs, pro bono services, and self-help services  
7 for military service members, veterans, and their family members  
8 domiciled or stationed in Washington state.

9 (2) For the purposes of sections 1 through 3 of this act, the  
10 following definitions apply:

11 (a) The term "service member" means an active or reserve member  
12 in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the  
13 national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

14 (b) The term "veteran" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
15 41.04.005 and 41.04.007.

16 (c) The term "family member" means the spouse or domestic  
17 partner, surviving spouse, surviving domestic partner, and dependent  
18 minor children of a living or deceased service member or veteran for  
19 whom the service member or veteran provided at least one-half of that  
20 person's support in the previous one hundred eighty days before  
21 seeking assistance of the programs and services authorized by this  
22 chapter.

23 (3) The attorney general may not directly provide legal  
24 assistance, advice, or representation in any context, unless  
25 otherwise authorized by law, and the attorney general may not provide  
26 legal assistance programs, pro bono services, or self-help services  
27 to a service member, veteran, or family member being criminally  
28 prosecuted.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of military and veteran legal  
30 assistance shall:

1 (1) Recruit and train volunteer attorneys and service programs  
2 willing to perform pro bono services for service members, veterans,  
3 and their family members, and create and maintain a registry of the  
4 same;

5 (2) Assess and assign requests for pro bono services to volunteer  
6 attorneys and service programs registered with the office; and

7 (3) Establish an advisory committee that will include, among  
8 others, representatives from legal assistance offices on military  
9 installations, the office of civil legal aid, the Washington state  
10 bar association's legal assistance to military personnel section, the  
11 Washington state veterans bar association, relevant office of  
12 military service and support organizations, and organizations  
13 involved in coordinating, supporting, and delivering civil legal aid  
14 and pro bono legal services in Washington state. The committee shall  
15 provide advice and assistance regarding program design, operation,  
16 volunteer recruitment and support strategies, service delivery  
17 objectives and priorities, and funding.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The attorney general may apply for and  
19 receive grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or other contributions to  
20 help support and to be used exclusively for the operations of the  
21 office of military and veteran legal assistance.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
23 added to chapter 43.10 RCW."

**SHB 2496** - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Law & Justice

24 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "families;" strike the  
25 remainder of the title and insert "and adding new sections to chapter  
26 43.10 RCW."

--- END ---