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**Housing, Community Development &  
Veterans Committee**

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**HB 2200**

**Brief Description:** Creating the position of military spouse liaison.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Klippert, Kilduff, Leavitt, Van Werven, Griffey and Volz.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Creates the position military spouse liaison (liaison) within the Department of Veterans Affairs and assigns duties to the liaison.

**Hearing Date:** 1/15/20

**Staff:** Cassie Jones (786-7303).

**Background:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is a state agency created in 1975. The powers and duties of the DVA include cooperating with local governments and the federal government, particularly regarding participation in federal grants-in-aid programs relating to veterans and veterans affairs. The DVA provides many services to veterans and their families, including medical care, assistance with claims for benefits, estate management, counseling, and financial assistance. The DVA assists veterans with education, training, and employment.

**Summary of Bill:**

The position of military spouse liaison (liaison) is created within the DVA. The duties of the liaison include, but are not limited to:

- conducting outreach to and advocating on behalf of military spouses in Washington;
- providing assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment in Washington; and

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- researching issues facing military spouses and creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their families.

The liaison is encouraged to periodically report on the work of the liaison to the relevant committees of the Legislature and participate in policy development related to military spouses.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 9, 2020.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.