
HOUSE BILL 1650

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, Reeves, Orwall, Leavitt, Morgan, Doglio, Macri, Frame, Lovick, Peterson, Appleton, Ortiz-Self, Robinson, Valdez, Hudgins, Davis, Stanford, Bergquist, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/25/19. Referred to Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting access to earned benefits and
2 services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans; adding
3 a new section to chapter 43.60A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that veterans
6 must be able to access and receive the benefits and services they
7 have earned in service to our country without regard to sexual
8 orientation or gender identity. The legislature further declares that
9 connecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans to their
10 earned and related benefits and services, and to programs, resources,
11 and information about such benefits and services, promotes the
12 economic security and financial stability of veterans, and their
13 spouses and dependents.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The position of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
17 coordinator is created within the department.

18 (2) The duties of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
19 coordinator include, but are not limited to:

1 (a) Conducting outreach to, and providing assistance designed for
2 the unique needs of, veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
3 transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans;

4 (b) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay,
5 bisexual, and transgender in applying for an upgrade to the character
6 of a discharge from service or a change in the narrative reason for a
7 discharge from service;

8 (c) Providing assistance in applying for and obtaining veterans'
9 benefits and benefits available through other programs that provide
10 services and resources to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,
11 and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans;

12 (d) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay,
13 bisexual, and transgender in applying for, and in appealing any
14 denial of, federal and state veterans' benefits and aid that such
15 veterans, and the spouses and dependents of such veterans, may be
16 entitled to; and

17 (e) Developing and distributing informational materials to
18 veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and to the
19 spouses and dependents of such veterans, regarding veterans' benefits
20 and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to
21 veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and to the
22 spouses and dependents of such veterans.

23 (3) No later than December 15, 2020, the department must prepare
24 and submit a report to the governor, the joint committee on veterans'
25 and military affairs, and the appropriate standing committees of the
26 legislature regarding the implementation and status of the position
27 of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender coordinator created under
28 subsection (1) of this section. The report must include, at a
29 minimum, information regarding the following:

30 (a) The number of veterans served;

31 (b) The type of assistance provided;

32 (c) Recommendations for the improvement and expansion of the
33 services provided by the coordinator; and

34 (d) Recommendations for legislative changes.

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