

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5900**

Chapter 56, Laws of 2020

66th Legislature  
2020 Regular Session

VETERANS AFFAIRS--LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER  
COORDINATOR

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2020

Passed by the Senate February 12, 2020  
Yeas 43 Nays 4

CYRUS HABIB

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 5, 2020  
Yeas 87 Nays 10

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved March 18, 2020 10:59 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5900** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

**Secretary**

FILED

March 18, 2020

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5900**

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Passed Legislature - 2020 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Randall, Wilson, C., Takko, Saldaña, Van De Wege, Salomon, Lias, Das, Pedersen, and Nguyen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/20.

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

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

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

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

- 17       (1) The position of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and  
18 queer coordinator is created within the department.
- 19       (2) The duties of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and  
20 queer 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,  
3 transgender, and queer, and to the spouses and dependents of such  
4 veterans;

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

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

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

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

25 (3) No later than December 15, 2021, the department must prepare  
26 and submit a report to the governor, the joint committee on veterans'  
27 and military affairs, and the appropriate standing committees of the  
28 legislature regarding the implementation and status of the position  
29 of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer coordinator created  
30 under subsection (1) of this section. The report must include, at a  
31 minimum, information regarding the following:

32 (a) The number of veterans served;

33 (b) The type of assistance provided;

34 (c) Recommendations for the improvement and expansion of the  
35 services provided by the coordinator; and

36 (d) Recommendations for legislative changes.

Passed by the Senate February 12, 2020.

Passed by the House March 5, 2020.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 2020.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 18, 2020.

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