

**James M. Sims 93 SE Bariekman Boulevard Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 432-8195 jim.ginny1@gmail.com**

MEMORANDUM

From: Jim Sims
Chair, Veterans Legislative Coalition

Following is a summary of those Bills of interest to veterans and their families passed by the legislature during the 2014 Legislative session, completed March 13, 2014.

HB 2130 Concerning the Veterans Innovations Program (VIP)

Sponsors: Representatives MacEwen, Orwall, Morrell, Seaquist, Haler, Appleton, Ross, Stanford, Green, Van De Wege, Ormsby and Freeman; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Eliminates the Defender's Fund and the Competitive Grant Program for the VIP.
- Requires the VIP to provide funding and support to eligible veterans and service members for crisis relief and education, training, and employment opportunities.

HB 2171 An Act relating to strengthening economic protections for veterans and military personnel

Sponsors: Representatives Orwall, Johnson, Tarleton, Ross, Nealey, Hayes, Sullivan, Farrell, Kirby, Hansen, Chandler, Green, Shea, Moscoso, Parker, Smith, Magendanz, Klippert and Rodne; by request of the Attorney General.

- Amends the Washington Service Members' Civil Relief Act (WSCRA) to authorize the right of private action, or an action by the Attorney General, to enforce the WSCRA.
- Provides that the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act applies to proper cases in Washington courts, and a violation of the federal act is a violation of the WSCRA.

HB 2315 An act relating to suicide prevention

Sponsors: Representatives Orwall, Harris, Cody, Roberts, Short, Mooell, Manweller, Green, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, Tharinger, Ryu, Goodman, Ormsby, Pollet and Walkinshaw.

- Requires training programs for health care professionals in suicide assessment only; i.e. screening and referral, to be appropriate based on a profession's scope of practice.
- The following health professions are required to complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management: (1) chiropractors, (2) naturopaths, (3) licensed practical nurses, (4) physicians, (5) osteopathic physicians, (6) physician assistants, (7) osteopathic physician assistants, (8) physical therapists, and (9) physical therapist assistants.

HB 2363 Concerning home and community-based services programs for dependents of military service members

Sponsors: Representatives Muri, Seaquist, Zeiger, Morrell, Freeman, Christian, Kochmar, Dahlquist and Appleton.

- Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to provide services to developmentally disabled children of military service members returning to Washington to become residents after separation from the military.

HB 2397 Concerning Medal of Honor special license plates

Sponsors: Representatives Seaquist, MacEwen, Orwall, Ryu, Morrell, Zeiger, Haler, Tarleton and Pollet.

- Directs the DOL to issue up to three sets of Medal of Honor license plates to recipients of the Medal of Honor, instead of just one set.

HB 2744 Modifying certain provisions governing veteran-owned businesses

Sponsors: Representatives G. Hunt, Appleton, Tarleton and Freeman.

- Requires veteran-owned businesses to be incorporated in the state or have its principal place of business in the state.

SB 5318 An act relating to removing the one-year waiting period for veterans or active members of the military for purposes of eligibility for resident tuition

Sponsors: Senators Bailey, Becker, Roach, Hobbs, Holmquist, Newbry, Honeyford, Hill, Chase, Billig, Kline, Cleveland and Carrell.

- Revises the definition of Resident Student to include members of the Washington Guard, spouses or dependents of active duty or Guard members, active duty members, spouses and dependents of military personnel separated under honorable conditions after at least two years of service.

SB 5775 An act relating to allowing for a veteran designation on driver's licenses and identicards

Sponsors: Senators Benton, Hobbs, Brown, Erickson, Conway and Rivers.

- A person may apply to DOL to obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license or identification card. The person must provide the DoD document, DD Form 214, that shows a discharge status of honorable or general under honorable conditions and establishes the person's service in the armed forces.
- The fee may not exceed \$2 per designation.

SB 5969 An act relating to awarding academic credit for military training

Sponsors: Senators O'Ban, McCoy, Schoessler, Hobbs, Hatfield, Brown, Conway, Rolfes, Braun, McAuliffe and Benton

- Provides for awarding academic credit for military training.
- Prior Learning is defined as the knowledge and skill gained through work and life experience; through military training and experience; and through formal and informal education and training from in-state and out-of-state institutions including foreign institutions.

SB 6208 An act relating to preserving the integrity of veterans' benefit-related services

Sponsors: Senators Hill, Conway, Braun, Hobbs, Kohl-Welles, Chase and Benton; by request of the Attorney General.

- Under the Pension Poacher Prevention Act, a person may not: (1) use financial or other personal information gathered to prepare documents for or while representing the interests of another in a veterans' benefit matter for purposes of trade or commerce; represent that the receipt of a certain level of veterans' benefits is guaranteed; or receive compensation for advising or assisting another person with a veterans' benefit matter. Except when permitted under federal law, or referring another person to a person accredited by the VA.
- A violation is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition under the Consumer Protection Act.

Following is a summary of those Bills of interest to veterans and their families that were not passed by the legislature during the 2014 Legislative session.

HB 1145 An Act relating to providing credit towards child support obligations for veterans benefits

Sponsors: Representatives Goodman, Klippert, Roberts, Orwall, Moscoso, Lias, Upthegrove, Ryu, Green, Morrell and Fey

- Provides that Veteran's Administration benefits apportioned on behalf of a child of the veteran must be treated as if the benefits are paid toward satisfaction of the veteran's child support obligation.

HB 1859 Evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements

Sponsors: Representatives McCoy, Appleton, Morrell, Ryu and Ormsby

- Provides that military training and experience satisfies requirements for professional licensing if the training or experience is documented and is substantially equivalent to the requirement in state law.

HB 2166 Providing for educational data on students from military families

Sponsors: Representatives Lytton, Robinson, Haigh, Kagi, Magendanz, Dahlquist, Moeller, Seaquist, Johnson, Morrell and Berquist

- Recognizes that an identifier of students from military families is needed to allow educators and policymakers to monitor the critical elements of academic success.
- Recognizes that reliable information about student performance will assist educators in more effectively transitioning students to a new school and enable school districts to discover and implement best practices.
- Adds "students from military families" to the list of subgroups that must be disaggregated in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's student data reports.

- Requires school districts to begin identifying students from military families in the statewide student data system by the 2015-2016 school year.
- Requires the K-12 Data Governance Group to develop best practice guidelines for the collection and regular updating of the information.