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
- 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) physicians 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
- 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, Orwell, 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, Tarrleton 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 honoragble 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 dcoment, 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, Moscosco, Liias, 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 sand 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.