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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1288**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Ryu, Morgan, and Graham; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs)

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of veterans affairs regarding  
2 exempt staff and exempt staff appointments, removing reference to  
3 one-time use of funds, and exempting veteran discharge papers from  
4 public disclosure; amending RCW 41.06.077, 43.60A.140, and 72.36.020;  
5 and repealing RCW 72.36.040, 72.36.050, 72.36.055, and 72.36.077.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.06.077 and 2001 c 84 s 1 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the  
10 provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of  
11 veterans affairs to the director, the deputy director, no more than  
12 two assistant directors, administrators and directors of nursing  
13 services at each state veterans' home, a confidential secretary for  
14 the deputy director, and a confidential secretary for each assistant  
15 director.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.60A.140 and 2019 c 415 s 965 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The veterans stewardship account is created in the custody of  
19 the state treasurer. Disbursements of funds must be on the  
20 authorization of the director or the director's designee, and only

1 for the purposes stated in subsection (4) of this section. In order  
2 to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, funds are  
3 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
4 required to permit expenditure of the funds.

5 (2) The department may request and accept nondedicated  
6 contributions, grants, or gifts in cash or otherwise, including funds  
7 generated by the issuance of the armed forces license plate  
8 collection under chapter 46.18 RCW.

9 (3) All receipts from the sale of armed forces license plates and  
10 Purple Heart license plates as required under RCW 46.68.425(2) must  
11 be deposited into the veterans stewardship account.

12 (4) All moneys deposited into the veterans stewardship account  
13 must be used by the department for activities that benefit veterans  
14 or their families, including but not limited to, providing programs  
15 and services for homeless veterans; establishing memorials honoring  
16 veterans; and maintaining ((a—future)) state veterans' ((cemetery))  
17 cemeteries. Funds from the account may not be used to supplant  
18 existing funds received by the department. ((For the 2019–2021 fiscal  
19 biennium, moneys deposited into the veterans stewardship account may  
20 be used for the department's traumatic brain injury program.))

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
22 each repealed:

23 (1) RCW 72.36.040 (Colony established—Who may be admitted) and  
24 2008 c 6 s 504 & 1977 ex.s. c 186 s 2;

25 (2) RCW 72.36.050 (Regulations of home applicable—Rations,  
26 medical attendance, clothing) and 2008 c 6 s 505, 1979 c 65 s 1, 1973  
27 1st ex.s. c 154 s 103, 1967 c 112 s 1, & 1959 c 28 s 72.36.050;

28 (3) RCW 72.36.055 (Domiciliary and nursing care) and 2014 c 184 s  
29 5, 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 4, & 1977 ex.s. c 186 s 6; and

30 (4) RCW 72.36.077 (Eastern Washington veterans' home—Funding—  
31 Intent) and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 1.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.36.020 and 2018 c 45 s 3 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 The director of the department of veterans affairs shall appoint  
35 an administrator and director of nursing services for each state  
36 veterans' home. The administrator shall exercise management and  
37 control of the institution in accordance with either policies or

1 procedures promulgated by the director of the department of veterans  
2 affairs, or both, and rules of the department. In accordance with  
3 chapter 18.52 RCW, the individual appointed as administrator for a  
4 state veterans' home shall be a licensed nursing home administrator  
5 and the agency shall provide preference to honorably discharged  
6 veterans in accordance with RCW 73.16.010. The director of nursing  
7 services shall be a registered nurse licensed in the state of  
8 Washington and is a position exempt from chapter 41.06 RCW.

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