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HOUSE BILL 1448

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Maycumber, Chapman, Lovick, Gildon, Reeves, Volz, Steele, Kilduff, Mosbrucker, Pettigrew, Boehnke, McCaslin, Macri, Irwin, Corry, Klippert, MacEwen, Riccelli, Eslick, Leavitt, Dye, Ryu, Smith, Stokesbary, Chambers, DeBolt, Slatter, Jenkin, Barkis, Cody, Schmick, Kretz, and Tharinger

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the veterans service officer program;  
2 and adding new sections to chapter 43.60A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM. (1)  
5 There is created in the department the veterans service officer  
6 program. The purpose of the veterans service officer program is to  
7 provide funding to underserved eligible counties to establish a  
8 veterans service officer within the county. "Eligible counties," for  
9 the purposes of this section, means counties with a population of one  
10 hundred thousand or less.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated in the  
12 veterans service officer fund under section 2 of this act for the  
13 specific purposes provided in this section, the department must:

14 (a) Establish a process to educate local governments, veterans,  
15 and those still serving in the national guard or armed forces reserve  
16 of the veterans service officer program;

17 (b) Develop partnerships with local governments to assist in  
18 establishing local veterans service officers in eligible counties who  
19 elect to have a veterans service officer; and

1 (c) Provide funding to support eligible counties in establishing  
2 local accredited veterans service officers. Funding is provided on a  
3 first-come, first-served basis.

4 (3) The application process for the veterans service officer  
5 program must be prescribed as to manner and form by the department.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER FUND. (1) There  
7 is created in the custody of the state treasurer an account to be  
8 known as the veterans service officer fund. Revenues to the fund  
9 consist of appropriations by the legislature, private contributions,  
10 and all other sources deposited in the fund.

11 (2) Expenditures from the fund may only be used for the purposes  
12 of the veterans service officer program under section 1 of this act,  
13 including administrative expenses. Only the director, or the  
14 director's designee, may authorize expenditures. The account is  
15 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
16 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each  
18 added to chapter 43.60A RCW.

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