
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1448

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Housing, Community Development & Veterans (originally sponsored 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, Tharinger, Van Werven, Orwall, Sells, Sutherland, Stanford, Ormsby, and Jenkins)

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 and
8 maintain a veterans service officer within the county. "Eligible
9 counties," for the purposes of this section, means counties with a
10 population of one 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 and maintaining local veterans service officers in
19 eligible counties who elect to have a veterans service officer; and

20 (c) Provide funding to support eligible counties in establishing
21 and maintaining local accredited veterans service officers. Funding

1 is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding may only be
2 provided to support the equivalent of one full-time veterans service
3 officer per eligible county.

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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