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SENATE BILL 6377

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Warnick and Dhingra; by request of LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of veteran; and reenacting and  
2 amending RCW 41.04.005.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.04.005 and 2005 c 255 s 1 and 2005 c 247 s 1 are  
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) As used in RCW 41.04.005, 41.16.220, 41.20.050, and  
7 41.40.170(~~(, and 28B.15.380)~~) "veteran" includes every person, who at  
8 the time he or she seeks the benefits of RCW 41.04.005, 41.16.220,  
9 41.20.050, or 41.40.170(~~(, or 28B.15.380)~~) has received an honorable  
10 discharge, is actively serving honorably, or received a discharge for  
11 physical reasons with an honorable record and who meets at least one  
12 of the following criteria:

13 (a) The person has served between World War I and World War II or  
14 during any period of war, as defined in subsection (2) of this  
15 section, as either:

16 (i) A member in any branch of the armed forces of the United  
17 States;

18 (ii) A member of the women's air forces service pilots;

19 (iii) A U.S. documented merchant mariner with service aboard an  
20 oceangoing vessel operated by the war shipping administration, the

1 office of defense transportation, or their agents, from December 7,  
2 1941, through December 31, 1946; or

3 (iv) A civil service crewmember with service aboard a U.S. army  
4 transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in  
5 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;  
6 or

7 (b) The person has received the armed forces expeditionary medal,  
8 or marine corps and navy expeditionary medal, for opposed action on  
9 foreign soil, for service:

10 (i) In any branch of the armed forces of the United States; or

11 (ii) As a member of the women's air forces service pilots.

12 (2) A "period of war" includes:

13 (a) World War I;

14 (b) World War II;

15 (c) The Korean conflict;

16 (d) The Vietnam era, which means:

17 (i) The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May  
18 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of  
19 Vietnam during that period;

20 (ii) The period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7,  
21 1975;

22 (e) The Persian Gulf War, which was the period beginning August  
23 2, 1990, and ending on the date prescribed by presidential  
24 proclamation or law;

25 (f) The period beginning on the date of any future declaration of  
26 war by the congress and ending on the date prescribed by presidential  
27 proclamation or concurrent resolution of the congress; and

28 (g) The following armed conflicts, if the participant was awarded  
29 the respective campaign badge or medal: The crisis in Lebanon; the  
30 invasion of Grenada; Panama, Operation Just Cause; Somalia, Operation  
31 Restore Hope; Haiti, Operation Uphold Democracy; Bosnia, Operation  
32 Joint Endeavor; Operation Noble Eagle; southern or central Asia,  
33 Operation Enduring Freedom; and Persian Gulf, Operation Iraqi  
34 Freedom.

35 (3) For the purpose of RCW 41.26.520 "veteran" includes every  
36 person or member, who at the time he or she seeks the benefits of RCW  
37 41.26.520 has received an honorable discharge, is actively serving  
38 honorably, or received a discharge for physical reasons with an  
39 honorable record and who meets at least one of the following  
40 criteria:

1 (a) The person has served between World War I and World War II or  
2 during any period of war, as defined in subsection (4) of this  
3 section, as either:

4 (i) A member in any branch of the armed forces of the United  
5 States;

6 (ii) A member of the women's air forces service pilots;

7 (iii) A U.S. documented merchant mariner with service aboard an  
8 oceangoing vessel operated by the war shipping administration, the  
9 office of defense transportation, or their agents, from December 7,  
10 1941, through December 31, 1946; or

11 (iv) A civil service crewmember with service aboard a U.S. army  
12 transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in  
13 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;  
14 or

15 (b) The person has received the armed forces expeditionary medal,  
16 or marine corps and navy expeditionary medal, for opposed action on  
17 foreign soil, for service:

18 (i) In any branch of the armed forces of the United States; or

19 (ii) As a member of the women's air forces service pilots.

20 (4) A "period of war" includes:

21 (a) World War I;

22 (b) World War II;

23 (c) The Korean conflict;

24 (d) The Vietnam era, which means:

25 (i) The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May  
26 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of  
27 Vietnam during that period;

28 (ii) The period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7,  
29 1975;

30 (e) The Persian Gulf War, which was the period beginning August  
31 2, 1990, and ending on February 28, 1991, or the date prescribed by  
32 presidential proclamation or law, or if the participant was awarded a  
33 campaign badge or medal on or before November 30, 1995;

34 (f) The period beginning on the date of any future declaration of  
35 war by the congress and ending on the date prescribed by presidential  
36 proclamation or concurrent resolution of the congress; and

37 (g) The following armed conflicts, if the participant was awarded  
38 the respective campaign badge or medal, or if the service was such  
39 that a campaign badge or medal would have been awarded, except that  
40 the member already received a campaign badge or medal for a prior

1 deployment during that same conflict: The crisis in Lebanon; the  
2 invasion of Grenada; Panama, Operation Just Cause; Somalia, Operation  
3 Restore Hope; Haiti, Operation Uphold Democracy; Bosnia, Operation  
4 Joint Endeavor; Operation Noble Eagle; southern or central Asia,  
5 Operation Enduring Freedom; Persian Gulf, Operation Iraqi Freedom;  
6 Iraq and Syria, Operation Inherent Resolve; Afghanistan, Operation  
7 Freedom's Sentinel.

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