
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5388 (as amended by House Amendment "A")*

AN ACT REQUIRING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE A VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires any municipality that does not (1) have a local veterans' advisory committee or (2) fund a veterans' service officer to designate an employee to be its veterans' service contact person. It specifies the contact person's duties.

The bill also requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Veterans' Advocacy and Assistance Unit (DVA VAAU) to conduct an annual training course for such contact persons and allows, but does not require, the contact persons to complete that course.

The bill makes conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A" (1) removes the option of having a representative from a regional planning organization serve as the veteran's service contact person for the municipalities represented by that organization and (2) makes the training course offered by DVA VAAU optional for contact persons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON'S DUTIES

Under the bill, the contact person must:

1. coordinate all matters concerning veterans and their dependents;
2. coordinate public and private facilities concerned with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation, and adjustment to peacetime living;
3. cooperate with all national, state, and local government and

private agencies in securing services and benefits to which a veteran or his or her dependents may be entitled;

4. encourage and coordinate veterans' vocational training services; and
5. work with veterans organizations as much as possible to carry out these activities.

Currently, local veterans' advisory committees must perform these activities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/12/2013)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 19 Nay 0 (04/01/2013)