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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6480**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill defines the funeral expenses eligible for the state burial benefit for indigent veterans.

By law, when a veteran dies and does not leave enough money to pay burial expenses, as determined by the veterans commissioner after consulting with the appropriate probate court, the state must pay \$1,800 toward his or her funeral expenses for burial or cremation. Under the bill, "funeral expenses" mean the cost of (1) cash advances paid by the funeral director, funeral services, and funeral merchandise (e.g., alternate containers, caskets, urns, vaults, and outer burial containers); (2) burial, cremation, or disposition; and (3) publishing an obituary. The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

By law, a veteran qualifies for this benefit if he or she was (1) discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces or (2) had a qualifying condition (i.e., post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma) and received a discharge that was not dishonorable or for bad conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Bill***

HB 5592, favorably reported by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, expands eligibility for the state burial benefit for indigent veterans (and other veterans programs and benefits) to veterans released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying mental health

condition or their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, as determined under the bill.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)