

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/7, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends certain state law protections and benefits already available to military service personnel, to members of the commissioned corps of the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NAOA), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). Requires community colleges to follow guidelines similar to universities, with regard to offering free tuition to dependents of deceased service members. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Consistency with references to uniformed services at federal level

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Extends state law to members of the commissioned corps of the USPHS. Requires community colleges to follow guidelines similar to universities, with regard to offering free tuition to dependents of deceased service members.

BACKGROUND: There are seven “uniformed services” of the United States acknowledged at the federal level: The Army, the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NAOA). The general public is typically most familiar with the first four, our country’s traditional armed services, but less so with the commissioned corps of the NOAA and the USPHS.

Members of the commissioned corps of the NAOA and the USPHS are reassigned to different duty stations and must reestablish themselves in new locales just like any other service member. State law currently offers some benefits and protections to service members to ease some of the difficulty that relocating can sometimes impose, such as permitting them to break a lease under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1563A would apply benefits that are already offered other service members, to members of the commissioned corps of the USPHS and the NAOA.

Separately, the measure also requires community colleges to waive tuition for the dependents of deceased veterans. Currently, community colleges and universities may waive tuition for the dependents of deceased veterans, and the dependents of veterans that are 100% disabled from their military service. Senate Bill 1563A reduces the number of persons eligible to receive a tuition waiver from a community college only.