

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines “disabled veteran” as person with disability rating from United States Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of statute relating to veterans’ preferences in public employment. Removes disability compensation determination from definition. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statutory definition of “veteran”
- Consistency with federal law
- Identification as veteran on state or federal documents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current law defines a “disabled veteran” as, among other things, a person entitled to disability compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Senate Bill 72 revises the definition of disabled veteran to include a person “who has a disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.” Under the USDVA rating schedule, a disabled veteran may have a disability rating indicating a disability, but the rating may not be high enough to entitle the veteran to compensation. Under the federal system, a disabled veteran does not receive compensation until reaching a 10 percent disability rating.

Senate Bill 72 removes the compensation determination from the definition of “disabled veteran,” aligning the state definition with the federal rating determination.