

This revised summary replaces the summary dated 4-9-99.



Romney Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

GULF WAR VETERAN BONUSES

House Bill 4290

Sponsor: Rep. Gloria Schermesser

Committee: Veterans Affairs

Complete to 5-21-99

A REVISED SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4290 AS INTRODUCED 2-23-99

The bill would create a new law, the "Persian Gulf War Veterans' Military Pay Act", to provide payments of \$600 or \$300 to eligible veterans of the Persian Gulf War or \$2,000 to the beneficiaries of deceased eligible veterans.

The Persian Gulf War veterans' fund. The bill would create the Persian Gulf War veterans fund in the state treasury, which could receive money or other assets from any source. The state treasurer would direct the investment of the fund and credit any interest and earnings to the fund. Money in the fund at the end of any fiscal would remain in the fund and not go to the general fund. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs would expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only to pay eligible veterans or beneficiaries.

Eligibility. To be eligible for a payment from the fund, a veteran would have to have "served honorably and faithfully" in the military (the army, air force, navy, marine corps, or coast guard) at any time during the period from August 2, 1990 to July 31, 1991; have been a resident of the state for at least six months immediately before entering the service on August 2, 1990; and not have received a similar payment from another state. (The bill would define "honorable and faithful service" to mean service that resulted in (1) an honorable discharge, (2) for an officer, a certificate of service; or (3) for a veteran who had not been discharged, a certificate from the appropriate service authority that the veteran's service was honorable and faithful. "Honorable and faithful service" would not include time lost while absent without leave, in desertion, in confinement while undergoing the sentence of a court martial, or time lost while in a nonduty status because of disease contracted through the veteran's own misconduct.) The bill would define "eligible beneficiary" to mean the surviving spouse, child, mother, father, brother, or sister of a deceased veteran.

Payments. Eligible veterans whose service qualified them to receive the Southwest Asia service medal would be paid \$600; otherwise, the payment would be \$300. If an eligible veteran were dead, the surviving spouse, child, mother, father, brother, or sister would receive \$2,000. Payments authorized under the bill would be gifts and not pay for service.

To obtain payment, an eligible veteran or eligible beneficiary would have to apply to the state adjutant general on a form prescribed by the adjutant general. If a veteran or a beneficiary were incompetent (or a minor), a guardian could apply on his or her behalf. The applicant would have to include evidence of honest and faithful service during the period of service, and each application would have to be subscribed and sworn to by the applicant before a notary public.
