

VIETNAM VETERAN RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

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House Bill 5601 (H-1) as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Rep. Hank Vaupel

1st Committee: Military, Veterans, and Homeland Security

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 12-5-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5601 would amend the Michigan Military Act to authorize the adjutant general to award the Michigan Vietnam Veteran Recognition Certificate in the name of the legislature.

An individual meeting all of the following could be awarded the certificate:

- He or she is a Michigan citizen or was a Michigan citizen while serving in the *Armed Forces of the United States* or the Michigan National Guard.
- He or she was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.
- He or she served during the Vietnam War era (the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975).

Armed Forces of the United States would mean the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the Michigan National Guard and reserve components.

The certificate would also include an option of a special designation developed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) that would recognize individuals who were exposed to dioxin or phenoxy herbicides (such as those in Agent Orange) during their service. To receive this designation, the individual would have to demonstrate in a form and manner specified by MVA that, while serving in the armed forces, he or she was exposed to dioxin or phenoxy herbicides, as evidenced by a medical diagnosis of a disease associated with dioxin or phenoxy herbicides and any other proof required by the adjutant general.

The certificate could be presented to a designated representative of a deceased certificate recipient. An individual could not be awarded more than one certificate.

The adjutant general, in conjunction with the director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, would have to develop and publish rules to carry out the bill's provisions.

MCL 32.582

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill could result in minimal costs to the state legislature and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and would have no impact on local units of government. Minimal administrative MVAA staff time costs would come from developing and publishing rules for granting the award. The legislature could incur minimal monetary costs from developing and producing copies of certificates to awardees of the Vietnam Veteran Recognition Certificate. The bill is permissive and does not require certificates to be awarded. Costs to the legislature and MVAA would be able to be absorbed through ongoing appropriations.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.