



Senate Fiscal Agency  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 10 (Substitute S-1)  
Sponsor: Senator Lana Theis  
Committee: Families, Seniors, and Veterans

Date Completed: 2-3-21

### **CONTENT**

**The bill would amend the Open Meetings Act to allow a county veteran services board to meet in a closed session to interview a veteran or a veteran's spouse or dependent regarding that individual's application for benefits and to discuss that individual's application for benefits, if the applicant requested a closed hearing.**

The Act allows a public body to meet in a closed session (i.e., a meeting or part of a meeting of a public body that is closed to the public) only for specified purposes, for example, to consider the dismissal, suspension, disciplining, or evaluation of a public officer, employee, or staff member, if requested by that individual. ("Public body" means any State or local legislative or governing body, including a board, commission, committee, subcommittee, authority, or council, that is empowered by State constitution, statute, charter, ordinance, resolution, or rule to exercise governmental or proprietary authority or perform a governmental or proprietary function.)

Under the bill, a county veteran services board could meet in a closed session to interview a veteran or his or her spouse or dependent regarding that individual's application for benefits and to discuss that individual's application for benefits, if the applicant requested a closed hearing. The bill specifies that this provision would not apply to a county veteran services board discussing or voting on whether to grant or deny an individual's application for benefits.

"County veteran services board" would mean a committee created by a county board of commissioners under Section 1 of Public Act 192 of 1953. Public Act 192 allows a county board of commissioners to create a county department of veterans' affairs and to appoint three to seven veterans to administer the department.

MCL 15.268

Legislative Analyst: Tyler VanHuyse

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce Baker

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.