

Legislative Analysis



ALLOW CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSING VETERANS' APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFITS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 10 (S-1) as passed by the Senate

Sponsor: Sen. Lana Theis

House Committee: Military, Veterans and Homeland Security

Senate Committee: Families, Seniors, and Veterans

Complete to 3-15-21

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 10 would amend the Open Meetings Act to allow a county veteran services board to meet in a closed session to interview a veteran or his or her spouse or dependent regarding an application for benefits and to discuss the application.

The Open Meetings Act generally prohibits closed sessions of a public body, but several specific exceptions are allowed.

The bill would provide that a *county veteran services board* may meet in a closed session to interview a veteran or a veteran's spouse or dependent regarding an application for benefits and to discuss the application, if the applicant requests a closed hearing. However, this exception would not apply to a county veteran services board 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 1953 PA 192.¹

MCL 15.268

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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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.

¹ MCL 35.621: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-35-621>