

HOUSE BILL NO. 4065

January 28, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Bezotte, Damoose, Clements, Martin, Liberati, Steenland, Mueller, Borton, Roth, Filler and Brixie and referred to the Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.

A bill to amend 1967 PA 150, entitled
"Michigan military act,"
by amending section 182 (MCL 32.582).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 182. **(1)** The governor as ~~commander-in-chief,~~**commander-**
2 **in-chief** may prescribe the award of medals and other suitable means
3 of public recognition for distinguished service, longevity, acts of
4 valor, or meritorious achievement. The awards may be made to
5 members of the organized militia of this state or to other

1 individuals, **who are** not members of the organized militia, who have
2 rendered appropriate service to the military establishment. The
3 adjutant general shall develop and publish rules to carry out this
4 ~~provision.~~**subsection.**

5 (2) The adjutant general is authorized to award, in the name
6 of the legislature, the "Michigan Vietnam veteran recognition
7 certificate". The adjutant general, in consultation with the
8 director of the Michigan veterans affairs agency, shall develop and
9 publish rules to carry out this subsection. All of the following
10 apply to the certificate:

11 (a) An individual may be awarded the certificate if the
12 individual meets all of the following requirements:

13 (i) The individual is a citizen of this state or was a citizen
14 of this state while serving in the Armed Forces of the United
15 States.

16 (ii) The individual was honorably discharged or released under
17 honorable circumstances.

18 (iii) The individual served during the Vietnam War era.

19 (b) The certificate created under this subsection also
20 includes the option of a special designation, as developed by the
21 department of military and veterans affairs, recognizing
22 individuals who were exposed to dioxin or phenoxy herbicides during
23 their service. To receive this designation, an individual must
24 demonstrate in a form and manner prescribed by the department of
25 military and veterans affairs that while serving in the Armed
26 Forces of the United States, he or she was exposed to dioxin or
27 phenoxy herbicides, as evidenced by a medical diagnosis of a
28 disease associated with dioxin or phenoxy herbicides and any other
29 proof required by the adjutant general.

1 (c) An individual shall not be awarded more than 1
2 certificate.

3 (d) If the certificate recipient is deceased, the certificate
4 may be presented to a designated representative of the deceased.

5 (3) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Armed Forces of the United States" means the United
7 States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard,
8 including the Michigan National Guard and reserve components.

9 (b) "Certificate" means the Michigan Vietnam veteran
10 recognition certificate.

11 (c) "Vietnam War era" means the period beginning on February
12 28, 1961 and ending on May 7, 1975.