

SENATE BILL NO. 239

April 22, 2025, Introduced by Senator DALEY and referred to Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to provide for payments to certain individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to beneficiaries of those individuals; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; to provide for acceptance of financial and other assistance from the federal government; to create certain funds; and to make appropriations.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "Vietnam veteran era
2 bonus extension act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

1 (a) "Beneficiary" means, in relation to a deceased veteran or
2 a veteran listed as missing in action, a surviving spouse, a child,
3 or a dependent surviving parent in the order named that may be
4 determined by the probate court of the county of residence of the
5 veteran at the time of death. A surviving parent of a veteran is
6 eligible as a dependent of the veteran if that surviving parent had
7 a reasonable expectation of support in whole or in part from the
8 veteran and that expectation is stated in the application.

9 (b) "Combat veteran" means a veteran listed as missing in
10 action, or a veteran eligible to wear the Vietnam Service Medal or
11 the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal if eligibility for the award
12 occurred during the period of service.

13 (c) "Department" means the department of military and veterans
14 affairs.

15 (d) "Director" means the director of the department of
16 military and veterans affairs, who may be the adjutant general of
17 this state.

18 (e) "Fund" means the Vietnam veteran era bonus extension fund
19 created in section 5.

20 (f) "Honorable service" means military service evidenced by an
21 honorable or general discharge, or separation under honorable
22 conditions, subject to both of the following:

23 (i) For an individual who has not been discharged or separated,
24 a certificate from the appropriate service authority that the
25 individual did qualify as if the individual was being discharged or
26 separated.

27 (ii) Time lost while absent without leave, in desertion, in
28 confinement while undergoing the sentence of a court-martial, or
29 time lost while in a nonduty status because of disease contracted

1 through the individual's own misconduct is not honorable service.

2 (g) "Period of service" means that period of time between
3 12:02 a.m. on September 1, 1973 and 12:01 a.m. on May 7, 1975.

4 (h) "Resident" means an individual who has acquired a status
5 as follows:

6 (i) Was born in and lived in this state until entering into the
7 Armed Forces of the United States.

8 (ii) Was born in, but was temporarily living outside this
9 state, not having abandoned residence in this state before entering
10 into the Armed Forces of the United States.

11 (iii) Had resided within this state for not less than 6 months
12 immediately before entering into military service or, while on
13 active duty, was a resident of this state for not less than 6
14 months immediately before February 25, 1973, and had, before or
15 during this 6 months' period, done 1 or more of the following:

16 (A) Registered to vote in this state.

17 (B) Lived with a parent or person standing in loco parentis
18 who had acquired a residence as set forth in this subdivision,
19 while an unemancipated minor.

20 (C) If not registered to vote in this state, was not
21 registered to vote in another state, or had not voted in another
22 state within 6 months before entering service or before February
23 25, 1973.

24 (iv) Information appearing on the discharge documents of the
25 veteran that shows a permanent address for mailing purposes, an
26 address from which employment will be sought, or a home address at
27 time of entry into service in another state, does not necessarily
28 mean that the veteran intended to abandon the veteran's residence
29 in this state for purposes of this act.

1 (i) "Veteran" means an individual who meets both of the
2 following:

3 (i) Is a veteran as defined in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL
4 35.61.

5 (ii) Has completed not less than 190 days of honorable service
6 or is listed as missing in action or died during the period of
7 service from service-connected causes in the army, air, naval,
8 marine, or coast guard forces of the United States including the
9 auxiliary branches, was a resident of this state for not less than
10 6 months before entering the service or, while on active duty, was
11 a resident of this state for not less than 6 months immediately
12 before February 25, 1973, and has not applied for and received
13 similar benefits from another state for the same period of service.
14 The 190 days required active duty does not include a period when
15 assigned full time by the armed forces to a civilian institution
16 for a course substantially the same as a course offered to
17 civilians; or a period served as a cadet or midshipman at a service
18 academy, active duty for training in an enlistment in the Army or
19 Air National Guard, or as a reserve for service in the Army, Navy,
20 Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserve, with the exception
21 of those military personnel who converted to active duty
22 immediately upon completion of the initial active duty for training
23 as evidenced by noninterruption in pay status from that of initial
24 active duty for training to that of active duty. The 190 days'
25 active duty requirement does not apply to an individual who died or
26 who received a medical discharge from active military service due
27 to injuries or disease incurred in the line of duty, as verified by
28 the veterans' records or by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

29 Sec. 3. (1) The department shall pay a veteran who meets the

1 requirements of this act 1 of the following service bonuses:

2 (a) For a combat veteran, \$600.00.

3 (b) For a veteran who is not a combat veteran, \$15.00 per
4 month for each month or major portion of a month served, but not
5 more than \$450.00.

6 (2) An individual is not entitled to a bonus as both a veteran
7 and a combat veteran.

8 (3) If a veteran or combat veteran is deceased, or is listed
9 as missing in action, that veteran or combat veteran's beneficiary
10 is entitled to receive the appropriate bonus described in
11 subsection (1) and may apply to the department for that bonus.

12 (4) If a veteran is deceased from service-connected causes
13 after payment of a bonus under this act, the beneficiary is
14 entitled to receive the difference between the amount which had
15 been received by the veteran and \$450.00.

16 Sec. 4. (1) A veteran or a veteran's beneficiary entitled to
17 payment must apply to the department on a form that may be
18 prescribed by the department.

19 (2) If the veteran is incompetent, or the veteran's
20 beneficiary is incompetent or a minor, the application must be made
21 by a guardian.

22 (3) An application must be accompanied by a certified copy of
23 discharge or by evidence of honest and faithful service during the
24 period of service as prescribed by the director.

25 Sec. 5. (1) The Vietnam veteran era bonus extension fund is
26 created in the state treasury.

27 (2) The state treasurer shall deposit money and other assets
28 received from any source in the fund. The state treasurer shall
29 direct the investment of money in the fund and credit interest and

1 earnings from the investments to the fund.

2 (3) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits
3 of the fund.

4 (4) The department shall expend money from the fund on
5 appropriation, only for the purposes of administering this act and
6 awarding bonuses under this act.

7 Sec. 6. (1) The expenses of administering this act must be
8 paid from the general fund in accordance with the accounting laws
9 of this state. For this purpose a sum of not more than
10 \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund which must be
11 released by the state administrative board on recommendation of the
12 state budget director to the department as required to carry out
13 the provisions of this act.

14 (2) Any necessary expense incurred by the department before
15 the effective date of this act in preparation for the prompt
16 payment of veterans' claims in administering the purposes of this
17 act must be refunded to the department, out of the appropriation
18 made in subsection (1), after an itemized claim is submitted to and
19 approved by the state administrative board.

20 Sec. 7. The deadline for filing an application for benefits
21 under this act is 5 years after the effective date of this act.

22 Sec. 8. If Congress adopts measures providing for financial
23 aid or other assistance available to this state in the payment of
24 the bonus under the provisions of this act, the state
25 administrative board is authorized on behalf of the state to accept
26 that financial or other assistance.