



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1184

Chairperson: DiAnna R. Schimek
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 12, 2004

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1184 amends the definition of "veteran" in 80-401.03 by striking the current service categories which are defined by periods of actual hostilities or wars. It broadens the definition to enable a veteran to receive services as long as he or she:

1. served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, other than active duty for training; and
2. received an honorable discharge or its equivalent from such service, or
3. as a citizen of the United States at the time of his or her entry into such service, served with the military forces of any government allied with the United States; and
4. received an honorable discharge, general discharge, or under honorable conditions discharge from such service.

Changing the definition of veteran has an impact on the following specific statutes:

23-1309	Discharge Records kept by county clerks on veterans discharged from the service
23-1310	Registration of discharge in the office of the county clerk
37-420	Veterans who are exempt from payment of fishing or hunting fees
71-605	Information on certificate of death by funeral director regarding status as a veteran
77-3509	Veteran defined for homestead exemption purposes
80-102	County veteran service committee determination of veteran aid need
80-104	Veteran expenses which shall be covered
80-105	Grave of veteran shall be marked by suitable headstone
80-107	Veteran service committee may apply to county boards for metal marker for veterans' graves
80-316	Eligibility of veterans to domiciliary, nursing home, subsistence, and Nebraska veterans homes
80-325	Veteran as a qualified applicant for administrator of Nebraska veteran home
80-401.02	Veteran as a qualified applicant for director of Department of Veterans' Affairs
80-401.03	Veteran eligibility for Veterans' Aid Fund for aid of needy veterans and their dependents
80-401.06	Eligibility as veteran to serve on Veterans' Advisory Commission
80-410	Veteran as eligibility for service in a number of state appointed veteran positions
80-412	Permanent registry of graves of all veterans

The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Nebraska supports changing the definition of veteran that does not differentiate between wartime and peacetime service dates. Patriotism of any veteran is determined by the fact of their service not by the specific dates of their service. Therefore, all veterans should have equal access to all the benefits and entitlements that are governed by Nebraska statute.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Don Preister