

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2759

As Amended by House Committee on Veterans
and Military

Brief*

HB 2759, as amended, would modify the definition of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” to create a common definition for both terms throughout the statutes. The bill would also clarify the disability evaluation percentages required for certain benefits available to a disabled veteran.

Definitions

The bill would modify the following definitions:

- “Disabled veteran” would mean a person who:
 - Served in active military, naval, air, or space service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable;
 - Received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air, or space service; and
 - Has a service-connected disability evaluation percentage equal to or greater than 50.0 percent; and
- “Veteran” would mean a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service and who

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

Documentation Required for Benefits

The bill would update documentation required to receive certain benefits. Such updated documentation includes the veteran's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), NGB Form 22 (Report of Separation and Record of Service, Departments of the Army and the Air Force, National Guard Bureau) or equivalent document showing the character of service as honorable or general, under honorable conditions, at discharge.

Technical Amendments

The bill would make technical amendments to various statutes. The bill would clarify the disability evaluation percentage required for certain benefits to veterans, which may vary.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Johnson on behalf of Representative Dodson.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing on February 13, 2024, Representative Johnson and a representative of the Military Officers Association of America provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent generally stated the bill would conform Kansas statutes to federal code when defining "veteran" and "disabled veteran."

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted a technical amendment.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office and Kansas Department of Revenue state that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on either agency.

Veterans and military; disability determination; benefits