

First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0244.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 21-026

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Moreno,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz,

Senate Committees
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF DISCHARGED LGBT VETERANS FOR**

102 **SPECIFIED STATE BENEFITS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

A person may have been discharged other than honorably from the United States military due to the person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; statements, consensual sexual conduct, or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; or the disclosure of statements, conduct, or acts that were prohibited by the armed services at the time of discharge. Because of the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

person's discharge status as other than honorable, the person does not qualify for certain Colorado state programs or benefits.

The bill establishes a "discharged LGBT veteran" status for the purposes of Colorado law. A person discharged for the reasons described above is eligible to be a discharged LGBT veteran. A person who received a dishonorable discharge from the United States military is not eligible to qualify as a discharged LGBT veteran.

Pursuant to a process established by the division of veterans affairs, the board of veterans affairs determines whether a person qualifies as a discharged LGBT veteran. This determination does not change the veteran's official character of discharge on the veteran's discharge paperwork, nor does it affect a person's eligibility for federal veterans programs or benefits.

The bill amends various existing state programs and benefits to make a discharged LGBT veteran eligible for those programs and benefits.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the
3 "Restoration of Honor Act".

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 28-5-103 as
5 follows:

6 **28-5-103. Discharged LGBT veteran.** (1) (a) A PERSON IS A
7 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN IF THE PERSON, AS DETERMINED BY THE
8 BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WAS DISCHARGED OTHER THAN
9 HONORABLY FROM THE ARMED SERVICES DUE TO THE PERSON'S SEXUAL
10 ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION; OR STATEMENTS,
11 CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONDUCT, OR CONSENSUAL ACTS RELATING TO
12 SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION; OR THE
13 DISCLOSURE OF STATEMENTS, CONDUCT, OR ACTS THAT WERE PROHIBITED
14 BY THE ARMED SERVICES AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE.

15 (b) A PERSON WHO WAS DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE
16 ARMED SERVICES IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN.

5 (3) (a) THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL ESTABLISH A
6 CONSISTENT AND UNIFORM PROCESS TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PERSON
7 IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM,
8 STANDARDS FOR VERIFYING THE PERSON'S STATUS AS A DISCHARGED
9 LGBT VETERAN.

10 (b) (I) THE PROCESS MUST REQUIRE A PERSON APPLYING FOR
11 CLASSIFICATION AS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN TO SUBMIT A COPY OF
12 THE PERSON'S DD214 FORM ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,
13 A PERSONAL AFFIDAVIT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
14 DISCHARGE, AND ANY RELEVANT RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE
15 DISCHARGE.

16 (II) A PERSON WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED
17 IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY
18 DISQUALIFIED FROM BEING CLASSIFIED AS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN.
19 IF THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE THE DOCUMENTS, THE PERSON MUST
20 SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE THE
21 DOCUMENTS.

22 (c) THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL ESTABLISH A
23 METHOD FOR A PERSON DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
24 TO BE A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN TO DEMONSTRATE STATUS AS A
25 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN.

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 28-5-100.3
27 as follows:

1 **28-5-100.3. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 5, unless
2 the context otherwise requires:

3 (1) "DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO THE
4 STATE BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES TO BE A DISCHARGED
5 LGBT VETERAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-5-103.

6 (1) (2) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active
7 military, naval, or air service of the United States and who was
8 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, in
9 accordance with U.S.C. title 38, as amended.

10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-703, **add** (5) as
11 follows:

12 **28-5-703. Rules - duties.** (5) THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE
13 WHETHER A PERSON IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN PURSUANT TO
14 SECTION 28-5-103.

15 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-705, **add** (1)(i)
16 as follows:

17 **28-5-705. Duties.** (1) The division, in accordance with its rules,
18 shall perform the following duties and functions:

19 (i) ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT AND UNIFORM PROCESS TO
20 DETERMINE WHETHER A VETERAN QUALIFIES AS A DISCHARGED LGBT
21 VETERAN, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 28-5-103.

22 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-132, **amend**
23 (1) introductory portion, (2)(a), and (2)(b) as follows:

24 **22-32-132. Diplomas - veterans.** (1) Upon the request of an
25 honorably discharged veteran OR A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, AS
26 DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3, a board of education of a school district
27 may award a diploma to the ~~honorable~~ discharged veteran if ~~he or she~~ THE

1 VETERAN:

2 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (1) of this section
3 to the contrary, a board of education of a school district may award a
4 diploma:

5 (a) Posthumously to an honorably discharged veteran OR
6 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, upon the request of an immediate family
7 member or legal guardian of the ~~honorably discharged~~ veteran; or

8 (b) Even though an honorably discharged veteran OR DISCHARGED
9 LGBT VETERAN has already successfully completed a high school
10 equivalency examination, as defined in section 22-33-102 (8.5).

11 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-901, **amend**
12 (4)(d) as follows:

13 **23-3.3-901. Teach Colorado grant initiative created - award**
14 **of grants - legislative declaration.** (4) In awarding grants through the
15 teach Colorado grant initiative, the department shall give special
16 consideration to scholarships that:

17 (d) Are designed to assist honorably discharged veterans AND
18 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERANS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3, of the
19 armed forces in entering the teaching profession; or

20 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-7.4-203, **amend**
21 (1) as follows:

22 **23-7.4-203. Tuition classification of armed forces veterans.**

23 (1) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this article 7.4 or article 7 of
24 this title 23 to the contrary, beginning with the fall semester of the
25 2009-2010 academic year, the governing board of each state institution
26 of higher education in Colorado shall adopt a policy that grants in-state
27 tuition status to an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of

1 the United States AND A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN
2 SECTION 28-5-100.3, who enrolls in the state institution of higher
3 education and who meets, for any length of time, the presumptions and
4 rules for maintaining a domicile in Colorado described in section
5 23-7-103.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this article 7.4 or article 7
7 of this title 23 to the contrary, beginning with the fall semester of the
8 2009-2010 academic year, the governing board of each state institution
9 of higher education in Colorado may adopt a policy that grants in-state
10 tuition status to a dependent of an honorably discharged member of the
11 armed forces of the United States OR A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, AS
12 DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3, who enrolls in the state institution of
13 higher education if the honorably discharged member of the armed forces
14 OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN meets, for any length of time, the
15 presumptions and rules for maintaining a domicile in Colorado described
16 in section 23-7-103.

17 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-12-205, **amend**
18 (3)(b) as follows:

19 **26-12-205. Homelake military veterans cemetery - definitions**
20 **- fund - rules.** (3) (b) Burial and interment may be provided at the
21 cemetery for any spouse, surviving spouse, or dependent parent of an
22 honorably discharged veteran OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, AS
23 DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3, of any branch of the armed forces of the
24 United States.

25 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-502, **amend**
26 (1) introductory portion as follows:

27 **28-5-502. Interment of deceased veterans.** (1) It is the duty of

1 the county commissioners in each county of this state to designate some
2 proper person in each county whose duty it is to cause the decent
3 interment of the bodies of honorably discharged military personnel AND
4 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERANS:

5 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-5-505 as
6 follows:

7 **28-5-505. Cemetery subdivision - state may acquire and**
8 **maintain.** The state has authority to acquire, establish, maintain, and
9 improve in any cemetery in the state a suitable subdivision to be used as
10 a burial place for honorably discharged veterans AND DISCHARGED LGBT
11 VETERANS. Such subdivision ~~shall~~ MUST consist of lots, each of sufficient
12 area to accommodate at least eight interments of deceased veterans. No
13 charge shall be made for burial space in such subdivision.

14 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-802, **amend**
15 (1) as follows:

16 **28-5-802. Qualifications - term of office.** (1) The county
17 veterans service officer or assistant at the time of appointment ~~shall~~ MUST
18 be a resident of the state, ~~shall~~ have served in the United States Army, Air
19 Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or any auxiliary branch
20 thereof and ~~shall~~ have been honorably discharged therefrom OR BE A
21 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, or ~~shall~~ be an officer released from active
22 duty with the armed forces and placed on inactive duty therein. Before
23 such appointments ~~shall be~~ ARE made, the board of county commissioners
24 making ~~such~~ THE appointments ~~shall have sought~~ MUST SEEK the advice
25 and counsel of the chief officer of each post of the regularly established
26 and existing veterans organizations of the county wherein ~~such~~ THE
27 officer or assistant is to serve as to the qualifications and experience of

1 the applicant for ~~such~~ THE position. ~~Such~~ THE appointee ~~shall~~ MUST be
2 well-qualified based on ~~his or her~~ THE APPOINTEE'S education and
3 experience to perform the duties of county veterans service officer. The
4 division shall recommend education and experience qualifications for the
5 position of county veterans service officer.

6 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 31-30-210
7 as follows:

8 **31-30-210. Qualifications - notice of examination.** Applicants
9 for appointment ~~shall~~ MUST be citizens of the United States and reside in
10 the city and county of such municipality for one year next preceding the
11 date of their application. All examinations ~~shall~~ MUST be impartial and
12 only relate to the fitness of such persons examined for the service they
13 wish to enter. ~~No question shall~~ QUESTIONS MUST NOT relate to political
14 or religious affiliation, and ~~no appointment shall~~ AN APPOINTMENT MUST
15 NOT be affected in any manner by ~~such~~ political or religious affiliation.
16 Notice of time, place, and scope of such examination ~~shall~~ MUST be given
17 in ~~said~~ THE notice published in said paper. ~~No person shall be certified to~~
18 ~~appointment~~ A PERSON whose standing ~~shall be~~ IS less than sixty-five
19 percent of complete proficiency MAY NOT BE CERTIFIED TO APPOINTMENT.
20 Preference ~~shall~~ MUST be given to persons honorably discharged from the
21 naval or military service of the United States AND TO DISCHARGED LGBT
22 VETERANS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3, and whose qualifications
23 are otherwise equal.

24 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 31-31-410, **amend**
25 (2)(b) as follows:

26 **31-31-410. Purchased or rolled-over service credit.** (2) A
27 member may purchase up to five years of service credit for periods of

1 active duty in the uniformed services of the United States, subject to all
2 of the following conditions:

3 (b) The member provides documentation of the dates of service
4 in the uniformed services of the United States and that the member was
5 honorably discharged from such service OR IS A DISCHARGED LGBT
6 VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 28-5-100.3;

7 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-6-107, **amend**
8 (8)(c) as follows:

9 **33-6-107. Licensing violations - penalties - rule.** (8) (c) The
10 commission shall promulgate a rule allowing veterans, including
11 active-duty, reserve-duty, or national guard personnel, to obtain a hunter
12 education certificate without attending a hunter education course if the
13 veteran successfully passes a test-out option as developed by the
14 commission. To qualify, a veteran must be discharged under honorable
15 conditions OR BE A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
16 28-5-100.3.

17 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, **add**
18 (24.3) as follows:

19 **42-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title 42,
20 unless the context otherwise requires:

21 (24.3) "DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING
22 AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 28-5-100.3.

23 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-213, **amend**
24 (1)(a)(VII), (1)(a)(XI), (1)(a)(XII), (1)(a)(XV), (1)(a)(XVI), (1)(a)(XVII),
25 (1)(a)(XXV), (1)(a)(XXVIII), (1)(a)(XXIX), (1)(a)(XXX), (6)(b)(III),
26 (8)(b), (12), (13)(b), (16)(b), (16)(c), (17)(b), (18)(b) introductory portion,
27 (18)(b)(I), (26)(b), (29)(b), (30)(b), and (31)(b); and **add** (1)(a.5) as

1 follows:

2 **42-3-213. License plates - military veterans - rules -**
3 **retirement.** (1) (a) The department shall issue one or more sets of license
4 plates to the following persons who own a truck that does not exceed
5 sixteen thousand pounds empty weight, a passenger car, a motorcycle, or
6 a noncommercial or recreational vehicle:

7 (VII) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN,
8 OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Marine
9 Corps;

10 (XI) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN,
11 OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army;

12 (XII) ~~Effective July 1, 2006,~~ An honorably discharged OR
13 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of
14 the United States Navy;

15 (XV) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN,
16 OR A retired, reserve, auxiliary, or active member of the United States
17 Coast Guard;

18 (XVI) A serving member or honorably discharged OR
19 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN or retired member of any component of the
20 United States Air Force;

21 (XVII) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT
22 VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the special forces of
23 the United States armed forces;

24 (XXV) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT
25 VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the Navy SEALS;

26 (XXVIII) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT
27 VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the 10th mountain

1 division of the United States Army;

2 (XXIX) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT
3 VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of a submarine crew of
4 the United States Navy; or

5 (XXX) An honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN
6 or retired woman veteran of the United States armed forces.

7 (a.5) BEFORE ISSUING A LICENSE PLATE TO A DISCHARGED LGBT
8 VETERAN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE
9 THE APPLICANT TO DEMONSTRATE STATUS AS A DISCHARGED LGBT
10 VETERAN IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DIVISION OF VETERANS
11 AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-5-103 (3)(c).

12 (6) **Survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor.** (b) Any natural
13 person may use a survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor special license
14 plate if such person:

15 (III) Received an honorable discharge from the United States
16 armed forces OR IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN; and

17 (8) **Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT, or retired
18 veteran, or active member of the U.S. Marine Corps.** (b) A natural
19 person who has received an honorable discharge OR IS A DISCHARGED
20 LGBT VETERAN, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the
21 United States Marine Corps may use a United States Marine Corps
22 special license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant
23 shall submit proof of an honorable discharge OR STATUS AS AN LGBT
24 VETERAN or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve
25 member of the United States Marine Corps.

26 (12) **Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT, or retired
27 veteran, reserve, or active member of the United States Army.**

1 (a) The United States Army special license plate shall be designed to
2 indicate that the owner of the motor vehicle to which such license plate
3 is attached is an honorably discharged OR DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN,
4 OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the United States Army.

5 (b) A natural person may use a United States Army special license
6 plate if such person is an honorably discharged or DISCHARGED LGBT
7 VETERAN, OR A retired, reserve, or active member of the United States
8 Army.

9 (c) The department or an authorized agent shall not issue an
10 United States Army special license plate to an applicant until the
11 applicant provides a DD214 form issued by the United States government
12 or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is an
13 honorably discharged, DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, retired, reserve, or
14 active member of the United States Army.

15 **(13) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT, or retired**
16 **veteran, or active member of the United States Navy.** (b) A natural
17 person who has received an honorable discharge, IS A DISCHARGED LGBT
18 VETERAN, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the United
19 States Navy ~~shall be authorized to~~ MAY use a United States Navy special
20 license plate. When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall
21 submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other
22 evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable
23 discharge, PROOF OF THE APPLICANT'S STATUS AS A DISCHARGED LGBT
24 VETERAN, or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve
25 member of the United States Navy.

26 **(16) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT veteran, retired**
27 **veteran, auxiliary, or active member of the United States Coast**

1 **Guard.** (b) On or after January 1, 2008, a natural person who has
2 received an honorable discharge, IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, is
3 retired, or is an active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the United States
4 Coast Guard ~~shall be authorized to~~ MAY use a United States Coast Guard
5 special license plate.

6 (c) When applying for such a license plate, an applicant shall
7 submit a DD214 form issued by the United States government or other
8 evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable
9 discharge, PROOF OF THE APPLICANT'S STATUS AS A DISCHARGED LGBT
10 VETERAN, or proof that the applicant is currently an active, auxiliary, or
11 reserve member of the United States Coast Guard.

12 **(17) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT veteran, retired**
13 **veteran, or active member of the United States Air Force.** (b) A
14 natural person who has received an honorable discharge, IS A DISCHARGED
15 LGBT VETERAN, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of any
16 component of the United States Air Force ~~shall be authorized to~~ MAY use
17 a United States Air Force special license plate.

18 **(18) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT, or retired**
19 **veteran, or active member of the United States Army special forces.**

20 (b) Beginning January 1, 2008, a natural person who has received an
21 honorable discharge, IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, or is an active or
22 reserve member of the United States Army special forces may use a
23 United States Army special forces license plate. When applying for such
24 a license plate, an applicant shall submit:

25 (I) Proof of an honorable discharge or retirement, PROOF OF
26 STATUS AS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, or proof that the applicant is
27 currently an active or reserve member of the United States Army special

1 forces;

2 **(26) Honorably discharged, retired veteran, or active member**
3 **of the Navy SEALs.** (b) A natural person who has received an honorable
4 discharge, IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, is retired, or is an active or
5 reserve member of the United States Navy SEALs may use a United
6 States Navy SEALs license plate. To qualify for the license plate, an
7 applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States
8 government and a certification from the UDT/SEAL association, inc., the
9 Rocky Mountain chapter of the UDT/SEAL association, inc., or a
10 successor organization that the applicant has an honorable discharge
11 from, is retired from, or is currently an active or reserve member of the
12 Navy SEALs.

13 **(29) Veteran, reserve member, or active member of the 10th**
14 **mountain division of the United States Army.** (b) A natural person
15 who meets the conditions established in ~~subparagraph (XXVIII) of~~
16 ~~paragraph (a) of subsection (1) SUBSECTION (1)(a)(XXVIII)~~ of this
17 section may use a "10th mountain division" license plate. To qualify for
18 the license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the
19 United States government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that
20 the applicant is a veteran, A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN, a reserve
21 member, or an active member of the 10th mountain division of the United
22 States Army.

23 **(30) Honorably discharged, retired veteran, or reserve or**
24 **active member of the United States Navy submarine service.** (b) A
25 natural person who has received an honorable discharge from, IS A
26 DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN OF, is retired from, or is an active or reserve
27 member of the submarine service may use a submarine service license

1 plate.

2 **(31) Honorably discharged, discharged LGBT veteran, or**
3 **retired woman veteran of the United States armed forces.** (b) A
4 woman who has received an honorable discharge from, IS A DISCHARGED
5 LGBT VETERAN OF, or is retired from the United States armed forces ~~is~~
6 ~~authorized to~~ MAY use a United States woman veteran license plate. When
7 applying for the license plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form
8 issued by the United States government or other evidence sufficient to
9 demonstrate that the applicant is a woman and has an honorable discharge
10 from, or is retired from, the United States armed forces. AN APPLICANT
11 WHO IS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN MUST SUBMIT A DD214 FORM AND
12 DEMONSTRATE STATUS AS A DISCHARGED LGBT VETERAN.

13 **SECTION 18. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect November 11, 2021; except that, if a referendum petition is
15 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against
16 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
17 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
18 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the
19 general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take
20 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
21 governor.