

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 218  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Edwards, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - High School Diplomas - Korean Conflict Veterans**

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This bill allows an individual honorably discharged from military service to apply to a local board of education to obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school during the individual's senior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces during the Korean Conflict. The individual can apply to the local board of education in the county where the individual resides or where the school from which the individual withdrew was located.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can provide diplomas to Korean War veterans with existing resources. The average cost for printing a high school diploma ranges from \$1.25 to \$12.00.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A World War II veteran can obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school during the individual's senior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces.

**Background:** At the 2000 session, the General Assembly approved legislation that enabled World War II veterans to obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew

from a regular full-time public or private school during the individual's senior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces. Prior to this legislation, a local school system could issue an honorary diploma to veterans. This bill would extend the provisions of the 2000 legislation to cover honorably discharged veterans from the Korean War.

The Korean War occurred from June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Nearly 6.8 million Americans served during the Korean War period, with 54,200 American servicemen and women losing their lives. Over 75,000 Korean War veterans reside in Maryland. Korean War veterans account for 15% of the total number of veterans residing in Maryland. The median age of Korean War veterans is projected to be 70. Most Korean War veterans (85%) are projected to be between the ages of 65 and 74. About 4% are projected to be 80 or older. About 18% of male Korean War veterans have less than a high school education, while nearly half have at least some college education.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross-File:** None.

**Information Sources:** Maryland State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 2002  
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