

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 680

(Delegate Burns, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - High School Diploma - World War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam
Conflict Veterans

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 junior or senior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict. The individual may 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.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school systems can provide diplomas to veterans with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Veterans may 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 U.S. armed forces during World War II or the Korean Conflict.

Background: At the 2000 session, the General Assembly approved legislation that enabled a World War II veteran 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. At the 2002 session, the General Assembly extended this provision to cover honorably discharged veterans from the Korean Conflict. The Maryland State Department of Education has received fewer than 25 requests for diplomas from eligible World War II veterans.

Approximately 88,000 World War II veterans reside in Maryland. World War II veterans account for 18% of the total number of veterans residing in Maryland. The median age of World War II veterans is projected to be 78. Most World War II veterans (75%) are projected to be between the ages of 75 and 84. About 10% are projected to be 85 or older. The Maryland State Department of Education has received fewer than 25 requests for diplomas from eligible World War II veterans.

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.

Approximately 152,000 Vietnam War veterans reside in Maryland. The median age of Vietnam War veterans is projected to be 52. Most Vietnam War veterans (71%) are projected to be 50 to 59 years old. About 12% are projected to be 60 or older and 17% are projected to be 40 to 49 years old. About 5% of male veterans 40 to 54 years old (mostly Vietnam War veterans) do not have a high school diploma, while 60.5% have at least some college education and 24.6% have at least a Bachelor's degree.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510