

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 56 (Senator Hooper, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Education - High School Diplomas - World War II and Korean Conflict Veterans**

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This emergency 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 high school accredited by the State board to enlist in the armed forces during World War II or the Korean 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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

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

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Veterans may obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school accredited by the State board 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.

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 24, 2003  
mld/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 2003

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