

STORAGE NAME: h0481.ge.doc

DATE: January 18, 2002

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL EDUCATION
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 481

RELATING TO: High School Diploma/Korean War Veterans

SPONSOR(S): Representative(s) Argenziano

TIED BILL(S): None.

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) GENERAL EDUCATION
- (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
- (3) COUNCIL FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
- (4)
- (5)

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I. SUMMARY:

HB 481 extends to Korean War veterans a benefit currently provided to World War II veterans. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award standard high school diplomas to honorably discharged Korean War veterans who were inducted into the United States Armed Forces before they graduated from high school.

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, 292,000 Korean War veterans lived in Florida as of July 1, 1999. At that same time, 477,000 World War veterans lived in Florida. To date, 2,544 diplomas have been issued for World War II veterans.

According to the Department of Education, the fiscal impact on state government is minimal.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 2000 Legislature passed legislation authorizing the Commissioner of Education to award a high school diploma to certain veterans of World War II (Ch. 2000-225, L.O.F.). Pursuant to s. 232.246(11), F.S., in order to be eligible to receive the standard high school diploma, the World War II veteran must have:

- Been honorably discharged from any branch of the Armed Forces.
- Enrolled in high school between 1937 and 1946.
- Been scheduled to graduate from high school between 1941 and 1950.
- Been inducted into the United States Armed Forces between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, prior to completing high school graduation requirements.

According to the Department of Education, the veteran or the veteran's family, if the veteran is deceased, may make application to the Division of Workforce Development. The veteran's separation papers (Form DD-214) and documentation of the high school attendance must accompany the application. A notarized statement of facts is also accepted. To be eligible for a diploma, the veteran must be a resident of Florida but could have dropped out of any high school within the United States. The diplomas are issued through the adult education section of the Division of Workforce Development and are titled "High School Diploma" issued by the State of Florida but are not specific to the veteran's high school.

As of July 1, 1999, the Department of Veteran's Affairs reports that 477,000 World War II veterans lived in Florida, and 292,000 Korean War veterans lived in Florida. As of January 18, 2002, the Department of Education has issued 2,544 diplomas to World War II veterans.

The Korean War was the first major armed clash between the Free World and Communist forces and it lasted from June 25, 1950 until July 27, 1953. The United States Department of Defense formed a commemoration committee to honor and thank our Korean War veterans during the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. The committee is supporting a host of events over a four-year period. The events that have been taking place since 2000 and will continue until 2003 throughout the United States, the Republic of Korea and the Pacific reflect United States military, its allies, and United Nations concerted efforts during the Korean War. The following is a list of events that were held in 2001 as well as some events that are scheduled to be held in 2002 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War:

- April 11, 2001—U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home Recognition Ceremony at the Scott Theater, U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home, Washington, D.C.—A recognition ceremony to

honor Korean War veterans residing in the retirement home and to present them with the Korean War Service Medal.

- May 24, 2001—Battle of Chipyeong-ni at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA on May 24, 2001—Commemoration will recognize America's Korean War veterans and their families, especially those who fought in the Battle of Chipyeong-ni for their service and sacrifice.
- June 12, 2001—Battle of the PunchBowl in Seoul, Korea.
- July 4, 2001—National Bell Ringing—The Dorethea Henry Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution urges its members and others to honor Korean War veterans and casualties by taking part in its "Let Freedom Ring" project. Ring a bell thirteen (13) times for each colony; fly a flag of the United States of America and remember in thoughts and prayers those who fought.
- January 24, 2002—The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Faruk Logoglu will lay a wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, The Mall, Washington, D.C. Commemorating the 51st Anniversary of the Turkish Brigade receiving America's Presidential Distinguished Citation for Valor.
- April 9, 2002—Ceremony of the 45th Infantry Division Commemoration in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- May 27, 2002—Memorial Day Breakfast and Wreath Laying at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and Korean War Memorial, Washington, D.C.
- June 25, 2002—Korea Veterans Day in Melbourne, Australia.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 481 extends to Korean War veterans a benefit currently provided to World War II veterans. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award standard high school diplomas to honorably discharged Korean War veterans who were inducted into the United States Armed Forces before they graduated from high school.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Amends s. 232.246(11), F.S., providing a standard high school diploma to certain Korean War veterans.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2002.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Department of Education, the cost of printing and mailing the diplomas is nominal, and the fiscal impact on state government is minimal.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not grant additional rule-making authority.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, 292,000 Korean War veterans lived in Florida as of July 1, 1999. At that same time, 477,000 World War veterans lived in Florida. To date, 2,544 diplomas have been issued for World War II veterans. In 1999, the youngest Korean War veterans were approaching retirement age (65). Since 1999, more Korean War veterans could have retired in Florida and could be eligible to receive the diploma.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

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VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL EDUCATION:

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