

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2926

BY DELEGATES ROWE, LONGSTRETH, ROBINSON, ESTEP-
BURTON, PYLES, QUEEN, WESTFALL, BATES, MCGEEHAN,
EVANS AND MILLER

[Introduced February 8, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland
Security then Government Organization.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §9A-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to requiring the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to study the housing
3 needs of veterans; and requiring a report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE HOMES FOR VETERANS.

§9A-2-1. State homes for veterans.

1 (a) In consultation with the Governor and other appropriate state agencies, the Division
2 Of Veterans' Affairs shall establish and maintain a home for qualified veterans. The home in
3 Barboursville shall be designated as the sole veterans home of its type in the state. As used in
4 this article the term "qualified veteran" means a veteran as determined by the Division Of
5 Veterans' Affairs, who meets the requirements under federal regulations and laws.

6 (b) Any individual enlisting for the first time on or after September 8, 1980, who fails to
7 complete at least 24 months of his or her enlistment is not eligible for any right, privilege or benefit
8 for which eligibility is based on active duty in the Armed Forces. This provision does not apply
9 when a person: ~~(a)~~ (1) Is discharged because of hardship; ~~(b)~~ (2) is retired or separated because
10 of disability; or ~~(c)~~ (3) is later determined to have a service connected disability incurred during a
11 completed period of enlistment.

12 (c) In the event that a residential vacancy exists at any veterans home or facility created
13 and established pursuant to this article, a veteran who has been a resident of the State of West
14 Virginia for one year or more prior to filing for admission shall be given preference in filling such
15 residential vacancy over nonresident veterans.

16 (d)(1) The secretary shall study: (1) The need for additional veterans homes; (2) general
17 housing needs for veterans; (3) and other veteran needs relating to housing.

18 (2) On or before November 1, 2019, the secretary shall submit its study to the Joint
19 Committee on Health and the Joint Committee on Government and Finance regarding the housing

- 20 needs of veterans, including draft legislation addressing those needs, where the need is greatest
21 and the need for additional veterans homes.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to study the housing needs of veterans. The bill requires a report.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.