



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0244	Date:	February 16, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Moreno Rep. Ortiz	Bill Status:	Senate SVMA
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Bill Topic: RESTORATION OF HONOR ACT

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill provides for the reclassification of persons discharged from the military due to their sexual orientation. The bill minimally increases state workload and expenditures.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Division of Veterans Affairs in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) establish a process for determining if a veteran qualifies as a discharged LGBT veteran. A discharged LGBT veteran is any person who was discharged other than honorably from the armed services due to the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The process must include standards for verifying the person's status, and a method for the person to demonstrate the reclassified status. The Board of Veterans Affairs must adopt rules for the reclassification process of a discharged LGBT veteran.

The bill amends state statute for existing state and local veterans programs to extend eligibility to a discharged LGBT veteran.

State Expenditures

The DMVA must create a process and verify eligibility for individuals to be reclassified, and issue supporting documentation. These efforts do not require additional appropriations.

Once a discharged LGBT veteran is reclassified for the purposes of Colorado law, they may be eligible for certain state benefits available to any veteran, for example discounted hunting licenses, access to special license plates from the Division of Motor Vehicles, and benefits extended to veterans by institutions of higher education. The population of newly eligible veterans is presumed small, and these programs will not have appreciable changes in expenditures or require additional appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect November 11, 2021, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education	Higher Education	Human Services
Military Affairs	Natural Resources	Revenue