

HOUSE BILL NO. 5276

November 12, 2025, Introduced by Reps. O'Neal, McKinney, Xiong, Young, B. Carter, Price, Neeley, Tate, Weiss, Wooden, Breen, Paiz, Glanville, Byrnes, Longjohn, Witwer, T. Carter, McFall, Koleszar and Liberati and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1974 PA 370, entitled
"Vietnam veteran era bonus act,"
by amending sections 2 and 11 (MCL 35.1022 and 35.1031), section 2
as amended by 2016 PA 201 and section 11 as amended by 1980 PA 194,
and by adding section 6a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:
- 2 (a) "Period of service" means that period of time between
- 3 12:01 a.m. ~~on~~ January 1, 1961 ~~and~~ 12:01 a.m. ~~September 1,~~
- 4 ~~1973.~~ **on May 7, 1975.**
- 5 (b) "Veteran" means an individual who meets both of the

1 following:

2 (i) Is a veteran as defined in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL
3 35.61.

4 (ii) Has completed not less than 190 days of honorable service
5 or is listed as missing in action or died during the period of
6 service from service-connected causes in the army, air, naval,
7 marine, or coast guard forces of the United States including the
8 auxiliary branches, was a resident of this state for not less than
9 6 months before entering the service or, while on active duty, was
10 a resident of this state for not less than 6 months immediately
11 before January 1, 1961 ~~and~~ and has not applied for and received
12 similar benefits from another state for the same period of service.
13 The 190 days required active duty does not include a period when
14 assigned full time by the armed forces to a civilian institution
15 for a course substantially the same as a course offered to
16 civilians; or a period served as a cadet or midshipman at a service
17 academy, active duty for training in an enlistment in the Army or
18 Air National Guard, or as a reserve for service in the Army, Navy,
19 Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserve, with the exception
20 of those military personnel who converted to active duty
21 immediately upon completion of the initial active duty for training
22 as evidenced by noninterruption in pay status from that of initial
23 active duty for training to that of active duty. The 190 days'
24 active duty requirement ~~shall~~**does** not apply to ~~a person an~~
25 **individual** who died or who received a medical discharge from active
26 military service due to injuries or disease incurred in the line of
27 duty, as verified by the veterans' records or by the ~~Veterans'~~
28 ~~Administration.~~**Department of Veterans Affairs.**

29 (c) "Combat veteran" means ~~a veteran an individual who meets~~

1 all of the following:

2 (i) Is a veteran as defined in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL
3 35.61.

4 (ii) Is listed as missing in action, or ~~a veteran~~ **is** eligible
5 to wear the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary
6 Medal if eligibility for the award occurred during the period of
7 service.

8 (iii) Has completed not less than 190 days of honorable service
9 or was listed as missing in action or died during the period of
10 service from service-connected causes in the army, air, naval,
11 marine, or coast guard forces of the United States, including the
12 auxiliary branches.

13 (iv) Was a resident of this state for not less than 6 months
14 before entering the service.

15 (d) "Beneficiary", subject to section 14(2), means, in
16 relation to a deceased veteran or a veteran listed as missing in
17 action, ~~the a~~ surviving spouse, a child or children, or ~~the a~~
18 dependent surviving ~~mother or father~~ **parent** in the order named
19 ~~which determination that~~ may be ~~made~~ **determined** by the probate
20 court of the county of residence of the veteran at the time of
21 death. A surviving parent of a veteran ~~shall be~~ **is** eligible as a
22 dependent of the veteran if that ~~person~~ **surviving parent** had a
23 reasonable expectation of support in whole or in part from the
24 veteran and that expectation is stated in the application.

25 (e) "Honorable service" means that service as evidenced by:

26 (i) Honorable or general discharge, or separation under
27 honorable conditions.

28 (ii) ~~In the case of a person~~ **For an individual** who has not been
29 discharged **or separated**, a certificate from the appropriate service

1 authority that ~~a person~~ **the individual** did qualify under
 2 subparagraph (i) as if the ~~veteran~~ **individual** was being discharged
 3 or separated.

4 Time lost while absent without leave, in desertion, in
 5 confinement while undergoing the sentence of a court-martial, or
 6 time lost while in a nonduty status because of disease contracted
 7 through the ~~veteran's~~ **individual's** own misconduct ~~shall is~~ not be
 8 ~~construed as~~ honorable service.

9 (f) "Adjutant general" means the adjutant general of this
 10 state.

11 (g) "Resident" means ~~a person~~ **an individual** who has acquired a
 12 status as follows:

13 (i) Was born in and lived in this state until ~~entrance~~ **entering**
 14 into the ~~armed forces~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.

15 (ii) Was born in, but was temporarily living outside this
 16 state, not having abandoned residence in this state before ~~entrance~~
 17 **entering** into the ~~armed forces~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.

18 (iii) Had resided within this state for ~~at least~~ **not less than** 6
 19 months immediately before ~~entrance~~ **entering** into military service
 20 or, while on active duty, was a resident of this state for not less
 21 than 6 months immediately before January 1, 1961, ~~and~~ had, before
 22 or during this ~~6 months'~~ **6-month** period:

23 (A) Registered to vote in this state.

24 (B) Lived with a parent or person standing in loco parentis
 25 who had acquired a residence as set forth in this subdivision,
 26 while an unemancipated minor.

27 (C) If not registered to vote in this state, was not
 28 registered to vote in another state, or had not voted in another
 29 state within 6 months before entering service or before January 1,

1 1961.

2 (iv) Information appearing on the discharge documents of the
3 veteran that shows a permanent address for mailing purposes, an
4 address from which employment will be sought, or a home address at
5 time of entry into service in another state, ~~shall~~**does** not
6 necessarily ~~be construed to mean~~ that the veteran intended to
7 abandon ~~his or her~~**the veteran's** residence in this state for
8 purposes of this act.

9 **Sec. 6a. (1) Beginning on the effective date of the amendatory**
10 **act that added this section, an individual is eligible for a**
11 **service bonus under this act if that individual meets all of the**
12 **following conditions:**

13 (a) Is a veteran.

14 (b) Meets the period of service requirement under this act.

15 (c) Was awarded the National Defense Service Medal after 12:01
16 a.m. on September 1, 1973 and before May 7, 1975.

17 (2) The adjutant general shall determine, under section 6, the
18 official records that may be used to prove the dates described in
19 subsection (1).

20 ~~Sec. 11. An application for benefits under this act shall not~~
21 ~~be filed or received, except~~**Except** for applications ~~an application~~
22 under section 5(2), ~~after June 30, 1980.~~**an application for a**
23 **service bonus under this act must be filed and received before the**
24 **following dates:**

25 (a) July 1, 1980, except as otherwise provided in subdivision
26 (b).

27 (b) May 7, 2028, for a veteran who was not eligible to receive
28 a service bonus under this act before July 1, 1980, but is eligible
29 to receive a service bonus under section 6a.