

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2720

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 25, 2010

Title: An act relating to the Washington soldiers' home.

Brief Description: Concerning the Washington soldiers' home.

Sponsors: Representatives Armstrong, Morrell, McCune, Miloscia, Finn, Appleton, Hunt, Alexander, O'Brien, Kelley, Conway and Campbell; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/11/10, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/25/10 [DPA, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Benton, McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Roach, Ranking Minority Member.

Staff: Edward Redmond (786-7471)

Background: The Washington Soldier's Home (WSH), located in the city of Orting, was dedicated by the Legislature in May 1891, to provide eligible military veterans necessary personal and nursing care, shelter, and related services. The WSH campus comprises 188 acres of property and houses 38 buildings, including the Garfield Barracks. The Garfield Barracks, built in 1917, is the oldest building on campus and has not been used since 1980.

The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WSDVA) has administrative authority over WSH.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): WSDVA is authorized to work with public or private entities on projects that utilize the property and facilities of WSH. Such projects include, but are not limited to, renovation and long-term lease of the Garfield Barracks building on campus. Long-term leases are subject to state agency real estate

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regulations under RCW 43.82.010 with the exception that the lease of WSH property may run for up to 75 years. No state general funds may be expended in connection with such projects. The projects may, however, be supported through other state resources.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): Restricts the use of state general funds in connection with any project authorized under this section. The projects may, however, be supported through other state resources.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: None.

Persons Testifying: No one.