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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5035**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Hobbs, Swecker, Marr, Roach, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, Hatfield, McAuliffe, and Haugen; by request of Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs)

READ FIRST TIME 01/22/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving veterans' access to services; and  
2 creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of veterans affairs shall  
5 study efficient ways to increase the department's access to veterans,  
6 and to increase veterans' access to the state and federal assistance  
7 programs for which they may be eligible. By January 1, 2010, the  
8 department shall submit a report to the legislature with  
9 recommendations. The report shall address:

10 (1) How the department can achieve a goal of identifying all  
11 veterans in the state within five years;

12 (2) How the department can efficiently identify veterans as their  
13 population in the state continues to grow;

14 (3) How the department can identify veterans through referrals from  
15 other state agencies that currently provide services to veterans;

16 (4) How the department can effectively inform veterans of the state  
17 and federal programs for which they may be eligible;

18 (5) The potential costs and savings to the state that would result  
19 if the department's recommendations were undertaken; and

1           (6) What legislation would be needed, if any, to undertake the  
2 department's recommendations.

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