

Legislative Analysis



DENTAL ASSISTANT FEE WAIVER FOR VETERANS

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House Bill 5248

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Haines

Committee: Military and Veterans Affairs

Complete to 3-11-14

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5248 AS INTRODUCED 1-23-14

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) waive the initial application processing and license fees for dental assistants for an applicant who, while on activity duty as a member of the armed forces, served as a military dental specialist and was separated from service with an honorable character of service or under honorable conditions (general) character of service in the armed forces.

The applicant would have to provide the department with a form DD214, DD215, or other form that is satisfactory to the department to be eligible for the waiver of fees. The bill would take effect 90 days after enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bills 5248, as introduced, would have a negative fiscal impact on the Bureau of Health Care Services (BHCS) to the extent that veterans receiving an Honorable or General discharges from the armed services are exempted from paying application processing and initial licensure fees for dentistry assistants.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, there were 320,475 veterans between the ages of 25 and 64 years old residing in Michigan as of September 30, 2013. The discharge status of these veterans is unknown, but assumed to be either Honorable or General for the purpose of this analysis. According to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the five-year average population between the ages 25 and 64 years old residing in Michigan was 5.2 million in 2012. Based on the above data, veterans constitute 6.14% of Michigan's population between the ages of 25 and 64; the ages assumed to be the most likely during which individuals would apply for dentistry occupational licenses issued under the BHCS.

If veterans are equally as likely as the entire population to apply for and become licensed as dental assistants, the annual revenue foregone under HB 5248 would be approximately \$171.

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