

SENATE BILL NO. 148—SENATOR SPEARMAN

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to veterans. (BDR 37-57)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to veterans; requiring the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to provide certain assistance and information to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; prohibiting the denial of certain benefits and services to a veteran solely on the basis of the veteran's status as a discharged veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 2 of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to provide assistance and information relating to aid, benefits and services to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and their spouses and dependents. **Section 2** further requires the Director to assist a veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in applying for an upgrade to the character of the veteran's discharge from service or a change in the narrative reason for the veteran's discharge from service.

Section 3 of this bill prohibits the denial of a veteran's eligibility for any program, service, benefit, activity or facility of this State, or subdivision thereof, for which the veteran would otherwise be eligible solely on the basis of the veteran's status as a discharged veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. The Director shall:

(a) Conduct outreach to, and provide assistance designed for the unique needs of, veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and their spouses and dependents.

(b) Provide assistance to a veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in applying for an upgrade to the character of the veteran's discharge from service or a change in the narrative reason for the veteran's discharge from service.

(c) Provide assistance in applying for and obtaining benefits which are available through agencies and programs that provide services and resources to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and their spouses and dependents.

(d) Provide assistance to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in applying for, and in appealing any denial of, federal and state benefits for veterans and members of the military and aid to which those veterans, members of the military and their spouses and dependents may be entitled.

(e) Develop and distribute informational materials to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and their spouses and dependents regarding benefits which are available through agencies and programs that provide services and resources to veterans and members of the military who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and their spouses and dependents.

2. As used in this section, "veteran" means a resident of this State who meets the qualifications of subsection 1 of NRS 417.005.

Sec. 3. 1. No veteran may be denied eligibility for any program, service, benefit, activity or facility of a department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of this State or any political subdivision of this State which provides a program, service, benefit, activity or facility to veterans for which the veteran would otherwise be eligible solely on the basis of the veteran's status as a discharged veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

2. The Director may adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.



- 1 **3.** *As used in this section, “veteran” means a resident of this*
2 *State who meets the qualifications of subsection 1 of NRS 417.005.*
3 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

