

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows courts to consider defendant’s veteran status at sentencing for the purposes of mitigation, but does not mandate it. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Does not apply to a person with a dishonorable discharge
- Increase of veterans in jails and prisons

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows the court to consider a person’s veteran’s status for the purpose mitigation but does not mandate it.

BACKGROUND: After a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty, a convicted defendant may present evidence to the court which supports a more lenient sentence. A court may consider all relevant evidence which the court deems appropriate. Senate Bill 124 A allows a court to consider a defendant’s status as a current servicemember or a veteran. However, the court may not impose a sentence that is less than the statutorily mandated mandatory minimum sentence.