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H. B. 4433

(By Delegates Williams, Ashley, Cann, Fern,
Iaquinta, Perry, R. Phillips, Pino,
Shaver and Varner)

[Introduced February 6, 2012; referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland Security then
Education.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-34 of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to the awarding of high school
diplomas to veterans.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18-2-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

**§18-2-34. High school diplomas for surviving World War I, World
War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam Conflict
veterans.**

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the
contrary, the state board shall provide for the awarding of high
school diplomas, either by the county board in the county in which
the veteran resides or the county in which the veteran would have
received his or her diploma, whichever location the veteran

1 chooses, to any surviving World War I, World War II, Korean
2 Conflict or Vietnam Conflict veteran who:

3 (1) Left school prior to graduation and served in the Armed
4 Forces of the United States; ~~Provided, That a veteran of the~~
5 ~~Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict must have been attending~~
6 ~~high school at the time he or she left prior to graduating and~~
7 ~~served in the Armed Forces of the United States;~~

8 (2) Did not receive a high school diploma;

9 (3) Was discharged from the armed services under honorable
10 conditions; and

11 (4) Completes the application process as provided by the joint
12 rules of the state board and the veterans' council.

13 (b) The state board and the veterans' council, created in
14 article one, chapter nine-a of this code, shall jointly propose
15 rules for the identification of eligible veterans and for the
16 awarding of high school diplomas. The rules shall provide for an
17 application process and the credentials required to receive the
18 high school diplomas.

19 (c) For purposes of this section:

20 (1) "World War I veteran" means any veteran who:

21 (A) Performed wartime service between April 6, 1917, and
22 November 11, 1918; or

23 (B) Has been awarded the World War I Victory Medal;

24 (2) "World War II veteran" means any veteran who performed

1 wartime service between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946;

2 (3) "Korean Conflict veteran" means any veteran who performed
3 military service between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955; and

4 (4) "Vietnam Conflict veteran" means any veteran who performed
5 military service between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide high school diplomas to veterans of certain wars regardless of whether they were attending high school before entering the military.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.