



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 175 Printer's No. 151

Prime Sponsor: Goodman
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

SYNOPSIS:

Extends the Application Period for the Persian Gulf Veterans' Bonus Program from August 31, 2015, to August 31, 2018.

SUMMARY:

HB 175 would amend the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act (Act 29 of 2006) by:

- *Extending the deadline for submitting applications for the program from August 31, 2015 to August 31, 2018.
- *Extending the authority to issue bonds to fund the program for an additional three years.

Effective Date: 60 Days

BILL HISTORY:

Act 29 of 2006 established the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program, a one-time "bonus" payment to PA veterans of the Persian Gulf War. Qualified veterans are eligible to receive \$75 for each month of active duty service within the program-designated Persian Gulf Conflict Theater of Operations, with a \$525 maximum bonus limit. Prisoners of War (POW) are eligible to receive an additional \$5,000, and a beneficiary of a soldier who died in combat, or as a result of service-connected injuries, are eligible to receive an additional \$5,000. Eligible veterans include current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, or the PA National Guard who served from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWAM). Overall, the Act established a \$20 million bond, which was approved by the electorate. The program expires August 31, 2015.

House Bill 2550 of 2013/14 was introduced and referred to the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee. No further action was taken on the bill.

Prepared by: Silcox 6/12/2015