

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
iga.in.gov

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6729

BILL NUMBER: HB 1242

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2020

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Access to Military Records.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Ellington

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that any person may request the discharge records of a veteran if the veteran has been discharged for at least 62 years.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill requires county recorders to provide a certified copy of discharge records to any person requesting them if the veteran has been discharged for at least 62 years. This policy is in accordance with the standards set forth by the US National Archives and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This requirement constitutes a slight increase in workload for county recorders but is within their routine administrative functions. This provision should be able to be implemented with no additional resources.

Additional Information: Upon discharge from the military, the Department of Defense sends a copy of a servicemember's discharge records (form DD214) to the recorder of the county in which the member resided at the time he or she entered active service. Although centralized records are kept and are accessible through the Archives and the Department of Veterans Affairs, these records are incomplete due to a 1973 fire which destroyed between 16 and 18 million records of service. In these cases, the locally-filed DD214 retained by the county recorder is often the only complete surviving record of a veteran's service. This bill makes rules regarding the release of those locally-filed records consistent with those used by relevant federal agencies.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County recorders.

Information Sources: US Department of Veterans Affairs
(<https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>);
United States National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>)

Fiscal Analyst: Alexander Raggio, 317-234-9485.