

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6748

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF A MILITARY DISCHARGE
CHARACTERIZATION UPON A STATE VETERANS REGISTRY AS

Title: "HONORABLE".

Vote Date: 3/11/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Dominique Johnson, 143rd Dist.

Rep. Hubert Delany, 144th Dist.

Rep. John Santanella, 58th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows any veteran who believes that they received an other-than-honorable discharge based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to appeal to have this status changed to "honorable" on a state registry. Currently, a process already exists to allow servicemembers discharged solely because of their sexuality or gender identity to collect state veterans' benefits despite their discharge status. Given recent statements from the federal administration affirming a dedication to discharging servicemembers for their gender identities, this bill seeks to provide an avenue through which they can have their discharge recorded as honorable and their service recognized.

The substitute language of this bill expands this provision so that any veteran who believes they received an other-than-honorable discharge for any qualifying condition can apply to have that discharge reviewed, not just those with discharges related to sexuality or gender identity.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/20/2025