

Date: December 13, 2001
Bill Number: House Bill 4733 (Enrolled)
Sponsor: Representative Stephen Ehardt
Position: Support

Purpose: House Bill 4733 would allow a school district to award a diploma to a World War II veteran who didn't graduate from high school but who served in the armed forces.

Major Provisions:

- A qualifying veteran must be at least 65 years old and served in the armed forces between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946.
- The application would be made to the school district where the veteran was enrolled at the time of entering the military. The application may be completed by the veteran or the veteran's spouse, brother, sister, children, or grandchildren.
- The Department of Military and Veteran Affairs is responsible to notify districts of the law and encourage participation.

Arguments For:

- Thousands of World War II veterans willingly and patriotically put aside their education, leaving their homes to join the military and defend our freedom. The bill recognizes the educational and personal sacrifices by World War II veterans by honoring them with a high school diploma.

Arguments Against:

- Current law already provides a school district with the authority to award a high school diploma to a World War II veteran.

Suggested Amendments: None.

Fiscal Impact to State: None.

Fiscal Impact to Local Unit of Government: None.

Administrative Rules Requirement: None.

Departments Impacted: Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

Background Information:

- The following are some states that have already enacted similar legislation: Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Nebraska, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, and West Virginia.
- There are currently 190,000 World War II veterans in Michigan.