
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1775 (Ward) - Veterans

Version: May 18, 2026

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 8 - 1, M.&V.A. 4
- 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1775 requires licensing programs within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to expedite, assist with, and annually report on initial licensure for active-duty armed forces members discharged solely due to the January 27, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14183, and provides these affected service members and veterans with employment, housing, and discharge upgrade support, as specified.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown costs for each licensing entity within DCA to validate an applicant's eligibility for expedited licensure under this bill. These costs will depend on the number of people impacted by EO 14183; however, DCA anticipates they will be minor and absorbable (various special funds).
- One-time cost of approximately \$197,000 for the Office of Information Services (OIS) within DCA for associated workload to update language for online and paper applications for all programs. OIS anticipates these costs will be absorbable by redirecting existing maintenance resources.
- Unknown ongoing General Fund cost pressures, likely in the low millions of dollars, to continue funding the grant program. Staff notes that the Budget Act of 2026 provides \$2 million in one-time funding. This allocation supports the Veterans Military Discharge Upgrade Grant Program for veterans filing discharge upgrade applications, and for no cost legal services for veterans who are able to demonstrate their less than honorable characterization of service was connected to gender identity, behavioral health condition, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sexual orientation.
- Unknown costs to the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to develop the new grant program's criteria, procedures, and accountability measures, and to oversee grant administration. The Budget Act of 2026 specifies that up to five percent of the funds provided for veteran employment, housing, and discharge upgrade support may be used for administrative costs.

Author Amendments:

- Delay implementation for the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- Make technical and clarifying changes.
- Add coauthors.

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