



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Regina A. Delahunt, Director

DATE: 1/17/2020

RE: Ordinance amending county codes regarding the Veterans program and advisory board

Background and Purpose

During the February 25th meeting of the County Council's Finance and Administrative Services Committee, an ordinance will be introduced to amend County Code, Chapter 2.150 (Whatcom County Veterans' Advisory Board) and County Code, Chapter 2.152 (Veterans' Assistance Program). The proposed amendments seek to update both codes to reflect enhancements made to the county's Veterans' program, and to insert definitions used for the program as well as eligibility status.

The proposed amendments to County Code 2.150 intend to remove all references to the definition of "indigent" in order to place the verbiage more appropriately in County Code 2.152, which addresses eligibility for financial assistance from the Veterans Assistance Fund. The definition of "veteran" has been incorporated into the code, and "person-first" language has also been substituted for previous language to demonstrate respect for our Veterans who should not be defined by their economic status, but rather as people first.

The proposed amendments to County Code 2.152 intend to acknowledge the expanded services that our Veterans' Program has added. The definition of "Veteran" has been included to follow state RCWs, and to ensure consistency in who the program serves.

