

SENATE BILL NO. 81
INTRODUCED BY M. COONEY
BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO AWARD AN HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO A WORLD WAR II OR KOREAN WAR VETERAN WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A DIPLOMA DUE TO MILITARY SERVICE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Honorary high school diploma for certain veterans.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction may award an honorary high school diploma to a Montana resident who:

- (a) did not receive a high school diploma; and
- (b) actively served in the United States armed services during World War II from 1939 through 1947 or during the Korean war from 1950 through 1953; and
 - (i) died in active service;
 - (ii) was honorably discharged; or
 - (iii) was released from active duty because of a service-related disability.

(2) (a) The superintendent shall identify acceptable documentation of eligibility and establish procedures for applying for an honorary diploma.

(b) The superintendent may accept an affidavit to support the award if acceptable documentation is not readily available from the military or other sources.

(3) An eligible person shall apply for the diploma on a form provided by the superintendent. If an eligible person is deceased or incapacitated, an immediate family member may apply on the person's behalf.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 3, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 3, part 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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