

SENATE BILL NO. 81
INTRODUCED BY 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~~ CERTAIN VETERANS 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 CURRENT OR FORMER 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, OR DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT FROM 1961 THROUGH 1975; 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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