



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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COMMISSIONER

February 27, 2024

Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair
Representative Derek Lewis, Co-Chair
c/o Emily Caudill, Regulation Compiler
Administrative Regulation Review Committee
Legislative Research Commission 083
Capital Annex Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Re: Support for Proposed Amendments to 704 KAR 7:140. Authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or Vietnam War Veterans diplomas.

Dear Co-Chairs West and Lewis:

Please accept this correspondence as support for the amendment to 704 KAR 7:140 proposed by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDOE). The proposed amendment corrects a prominent discrepancy between KRS 158.140(5) and 704 KAR 7:140. Specifically, KRS 158.140(5) details the general requirements for certain honorably discharged veterans to be awarded an authentic high school diploma in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Pursuant to 158.140(5)(a), a veteran must have served in one of the following national conflicts to be eligible for consideration:

1. World War II, as defined in KRS 40.010;
2. The Korean conflict, as defined in KRS 40.010; or
3. The Vietnam War. As used in this paragraph, "Vietnam War" means the period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975. However, for a member of the

United States Armed Forces serving in Vietnam prior to August 5, 1964, the period shall begin February 28, 1961.

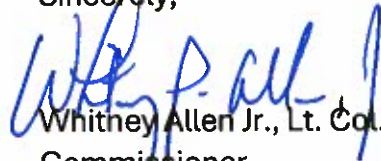
By contrast, 704 KAR 7:140 does not include veterans of the Vietnam War as being eligible for consideration, as is outlined by 158.140(5)(a)(3).

While coordinating with the KDOE concerning applications from Vietnam veterans seeking to clarify the process for receiving their authentic high school diplomas, the discrepancy, and the needed change to 704 KAR 7:140, became evident. The alignment of the statute and regulation will benefit Kentucky's veterans, the KDOE, and KDVA by providing consistency for veterans when coordinating with both departments to obtain their high school diplomas.

In preparation for this regulatory change, KDVA has identified two members of its Benefits Division to receive and process applications from any veteran who did not complete high school in the Commonwealth due to being inducted or drafted into military service during one of above-referenced national conflicts.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact KDVA's Educational Benefits Representative, Tammy Wray at TWray@ky.gov or Assistant Director of Benefits, Stephen Buford at Stephen.Buford@ky.gov.

Sincerely,



Whitney Allen Jr., Lt. Col. (Ret)
Commissioner

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