2023 -- H 5728

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EXTENSION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Azzinaro, O'Brien, Noret, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Section 30-22-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 30-22 entitled "Extension of

2 Veterans' Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3   **30-22-5. "Vietnam service" defined.**

4   "Active conduct of and/or fighting in the Vietnam Conflict" shall mean:

5   (1) Service service by any man or woman of the armed forces of the United States between

6 February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, inclusive. Provided, however, that the extension of the date

7 from August 5, 1964, to February 28, 1961, in the definition of the Vietnam Conflict shall not

8 entitle any veteran who served between February 28, 1961, and August 5, 1964, to any bonus

9 previously paid; and

10   (2) A Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who served in military operations, with special

11 guerilla units or irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos, in support of the U.S. military,

12 anytime between February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975. The office of veterans' affairs shall consult

13 with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to determine the proof necessary to show

14 that a person is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran.

15   SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N   A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EXTENSION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

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1   This act would include Hmong or Lao veterans who served in military operations in support

2   of the United States during the Vietnam Conflict any time between February 28, 1961, to May 7,

3   1975, within the definition of "active conduct of and/or fighting in the Vietnam Conflict".

4   This act would take effect upon passage.

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