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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7404**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1665

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 12, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** High School Diplomas for Veterans.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. GiaQuinta

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill provides that a veteran of the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict who left a public or nonpublic high school without graduating in order to perform military service is an "eligible veteran" entitled to receive a high school diploma.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *High School Diplomas for Veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts-* The bill modifies the definition of eligible veteran to include persons who fought in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Under current law, eligible veterans are entitled to an honorary high school diploma. Under the bill, the Department of Education (DOE) would incur expenditures to produce additional diplomas for Korean and Vietnam veterans, and the IDVA would incur additional administrative responsibility to verify the eligibility of veterans from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The fiscal impact to state expenditures is currently indeterminable but expected to be minimal.

*Background Information-* Projections from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs indicate that approximately 230,000 veterans from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts currently live in Indiana. There could be additional veterans living out of state that left an Indiana high school to enter the Vietnam or Korean conflicts that may qualify. There may also be veterans living in Indiana that attended an out-of-state high school.

During the 2002 session, the Indiana General Assembly passed P.L.127-2002. Since that time, a total of 276 honorary diplomas have been awarded to World War I and World War II veterans who dropped out of high school in order to enlist in the armed forces of the United States. Of the 276 diplomas awarded, the DOE has

awarded 47, versus 229 diplomas awarded at the local school corporation level. The DOE reports that total costs to produce a diploma are dependent on the type of diploma created, and are minimal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Awarding of additional veterans diplomas would have a minimal impact to school corporation expenditures if the school were to hold a veteran diploma ceremony concurrently with another school activity such as commencement. Of the 276 World War I and World War II diplomas awarded to date, school corporations have awarded 229 diplomas to qualifying veterans (83% of total awarded).

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** United States Department of Veterans' Affairs

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