**Washington State**
**House of Representatives**
**Office of Program Research**

# BILL ANALYSIS

# Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans Committee

# HJM 4012

**Brief Description:** Supporting combat-injured veterans.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Penner, Shavers, Couture, Keaton, Donaghy, McEntire, Bronoske, Volz, Burnett, Leavitt, Marshall, Abell, Dufault, Stuebe, Chase, Barnard, Nance and Timmons.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requests that Congress schedule a floor vote for the Major Richard Star Act, to provide combat-injured veterans with full compensation regardless of their years of service.

**Hearing Date:** 2/3/26

**Staff:** Martha Wehling (786-7067).

**Background:**

Under federal law, service members are eligible for compensation depending on their type and length of service and whether the member was injured. The amount of compensation a service member receives varies depending on whether the member retires or separates, the length of service, and the degree of disability resulting from an injury, if any. A service member with less than 20 years of service receives fewer benefits than a service member with the same combat injury but more than 20 years of service. In 2004 Congress passed legislation allowing concurrent retirement and disability pay, but the legislation was limited in application to members who served 20 or more years.

A service member includes members who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps,

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Space Force, Coast Guard, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service. Reserve members are eligible for some benefits depending on the length of active duty.

A federal bill, the Major Richard Star Act, H.R. 2102, proposes to amend federal law to address compensation for combat injuries. The Major Richard Star Act was introduced by Representative Bilirakis on March 14, 2025, and referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on April 4, 2025.

**Summary of Bill:**

The House Joint Memorial requests that the Major Richard Star Act be scheduled for a floor vote in Congress. The House Joint Memorial will be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the two Washington Senators and 10 Representatives: Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Suzan DelBene, Rick Larsen, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Dan Newhouse, Michael Baumgartner, Emily Randall, Pramila Jayapal, Kim Schrier, Adam Smith, and Marilyn Strickland.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.