

**House File 539 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 539  
BY GEARHART

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the law enforcement academy, including  
2 military veterans with active duty military police experience.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **80B.20 Military veterans with**  
2 **active duty military police experience.**

3 1. A veteran may qualify for lateral transfer to a law  
4 enforcement agency in this state without completing the academy  
5 training program if the veteran meets the following criteria:

6 a. Has served a minimum of four years of active duty in the  
7 United States armed forces.

8 b. Has held a primary military occupational specialty or  
9 equivalent designation as a military police officer in the army,  
10 or its equivalent in other branches.

11 c. Has successfully completed accredited military police  
12 training equivalent to or exceeding the academy's standards.

13 d. Has received an honorable discharge or a general discharge  
14 under honorable conditions.

15 2. An eligible veteran shall submit an application to the  
16 council for evaluation. The application shall include all of the  
17 following:

18 a. Proof of military service and discharge status.

19 b. Certification of military police training and experience.

20 c. Documentation of relevant duties performed during active  
21 duty.

22 3. The council shall review the applications and issue a  
23 certificate of equivalency to veterans who meet the eligibility  
24 criteria.

25 4. Veterans granted a certificate of equivalency must do all  
26 of the following:

27 a. Complete a one-week Iowa-specific law enforcement  
28 orientation course administered by the academy, focusing on state  
29 laws, procedures, and community policing.

30 b. Undergo any required background checks and psychological  
31 evaluations as required for all new law enforcement hires in the  
32 state.

33 5. The council shall develop procedures and guidelines for  
34 evaluating military police training and equivalency standards.

35 6. The council shall publish an annual report including data

1 on the number of veterans transitioning to state law enforcement  
2 and the veterans' performance in law enforcement roles.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill relates to the law enforcement academy, including  
7 military veterans with active duty military police experience.

8 The bill provides that a veteran may qualify for lateral  
9 transfer to a law enforcement agency in this state without  
10 completing the academy training program if the veteran meets  
11 the following criteria: has served a minimum of four years of  
12 active duty in the United States armed forces; has held a primary  
13 military occupational specialty or equivalent designation as a  
14 military police officer in the army, or its equivalent in other  
15 branches; has successfully completed accredited military police  
16 training equivalent to or exceeding the academy's standards; and  
17 has received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under  
18 honorable conditions.

19 The bill provides that an eligible veteran is required to  
20 submit an application to the council for evaluation that includes  
21 all of the following: proof of military service and discharge  
22 status; certification of military police training and experience;  
23 and documentation of relevant duties performed during active  
24 duty. The council shall review the applications and issue a  
25 certificate of equivalency to veterans who meet the eligibility  
26 criteria. Veterans granted a certificate of equivalency must  
27 complete a one-week Iowa-specific law enforcement orientation  
28 course administered by the academy, focusing on state laws,  
29 procedures, and community policing, and undergo any required  
30 background checks and psychological evaluations as required for  
31 all new law enforcement hires in the state.

32 The bill directs the council to develop procedures  
33 and guidelines for evaluating military police training and  
34 equivalency standards, and to publish an annual report including  
35 data on the number of veterans transitioning to state law

1 enforcement and the veterans' performance in law enforcement  
2 roles.

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