



**H.B. 49**

124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Ogg, Sullivan, D. Miller, Seaver, Flannery, Hartnett, Ford, Allen, Redfern, Britton, Willamowski, Williams, Boccieri, Metelsky, Barrett, Sulzer, Latell**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Provides for a state payment of \$300 to veterans of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm who meet certain eligibility conditions.
- Appropriates \$3 million to the Adjutant General for making the payments.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Veterans bonus**

(Section 1(A), (B), and (C))

The bill provides for state compensation of \$300 to veterans of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. A person must meet all of the following qualifications to be eligible to receive the payment:

--The person, on or after August 2, 1990, served (1) as a member of the United States armed forces in the area designated as a combat zone by President G.H. Bush in Executive Order 12744, or (2) as a member of the Ohio National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces on active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm, regardless of where the active duty was served.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The combat zone designated by President Bush consisted of the land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, the waters of the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, and a portion of the Arabian

--The person was a resident of Ohio at the time of commencing the service, and had been for at least the preceding year.

--The person served on active duty for at least 90 days during the compensable period, unless the active duty within that period was terminated due to injury or illness sustained in the service.

--The person is still in, has retired from, or has been separated under honorable conditions from the armed forces, Ohio National Guard, or reserve component.

A person who received a Desert Storm or Desert Shield bonus from another state is not eligible for the Ohio compensation. In addition, a person who spent any of their qualifying active duty under penal confinement is ineligible.

For a deceased veteran who would otherwise be eligible to receive the compensation, the compensation is to be paid instead to the surviving spouse, child or children, or parent or parents (including a person legally acting in place of a parent for at least a year preceding the deceased person's commencement of service). The surviving spouse has first priority to receive the payment, followed by the child or children and then the parent or parents.

### **Payment procedures**

(Section 1(D) and Section 2)

The bill requires the Adjutant General to prepare a list of all persons eligible to receive the veterans bonus. Within 90 days after the bill's effective date, the Adjutant General must present the list to the Controlling Board, and the Board is to release funds to pay the bonuses from a \$3 million General Revenue Fund appropriation the bill makes for that purpose. (As currently written, the appropriation is for fiscal year 2001; this provision will need to be updated.) After the Board releases the funds, the Adjutant General must promptly pay the compensation to all eligible persons on the list or their survivors. If the Adjutant General subsequently identifies more eligible persons, he can prepare and submit to the Controlling Board an additional list. But the additional list must be submitted no more than six months after the original list is presented to the Board.

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*Sea, and the airspace above those locations. Executive Order 12744 of January 21, 1991, 56 Fed. Reg. 2663.*



**Tax exemption**

(Section (1)(E))

Compensation received under the bill is exempt from the state and any municipal or school district income tax.

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**HISTORY**

| ACTION     | DATE     | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|------------|----------|---------------|
| Introduced | 01-31-01 | p. 101        |

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