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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

This bill changes the definition of veteran in the Ohio Revised Code to specifically include merchant marines who served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. The United States Congress changed this definition on the federal level in November 1998.

A spokesperson for the merchant marines in Ohio estimated that there are approximately 1000 merchant marines that served during World War II currently living in the state. The bill also recognizes merchant marines that died in service during World War II.

Adding merchant marines to the definition of veterans may cause a minimal increase in state expenditures and loss in the state revenues as this group will now be eligible for state benefits such as reduced fees for hunting and fishing licenses and entitlements to monuments and special license plates.

In some cases this new provision will simply formalize a current practice of extending organizational benefits to veterans, e.g. The Governors Council on Veteran's Affairs.

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