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NEW LAWS TO BENEFIT SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS

PIERRE, S.D. – Veterans in South Dakota will have access to improved education benefits beginning July 1 thanks to the passage of House Bill 1069 during the 2020 legislative session.

“Many skills military service members acquire translate well into the technical trades,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “HB 1069 helps veterans continue their education, tuition free, at one of South Dakota’s technical colleges.”

Veterans wishing to use this benefit are encouraged to visit with the technical colleges school certifying officials.

Additional law changes include lowering the threshold requirements for disabled veterans’ participation in special group pheasant hunts from 40% service-connected or higher to 20% service-connected and higher.

Also, as part of an ongoing red tape review, the South Dakota Veterans Commission was determined archaic and all statutes pertaining to the Commission were repealed.

“Now, more than ever, we need to keep our sleeves rolled up and work collectively to ensure our veterans have a successful journey as they transition into civilian life,” said Whitlock. “South Dakota has a legacy of supporting those who have sacrificed and served our country. We are proud of this history and the partners that have shared in our success.”

Whitlock encourages veterans to contact their local county or tribal veterans service officers or the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs office (605-773-3269) to learn more about these changes and their benefits.