

ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update
53rd Arizona Legislature, Second Regular Session

Friday, 26 January 2018

Inclusion of any legislation in this report does not constitute endorsement of that legislation by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

(Notations in Red represent latest or final action.)

SB = Senate Bill	HB = House Bill
SCM = Senate Concurrent Memorial	HCM = House Concurrent Memorial
SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution	HCR = House Concurrent Resolution
SR = Senate Resolution	HJR= House Joint Resolution
	HR = House Resolution

To view bills go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/bills/>

Senate Bills

SB 1088- children; veterans; disabilities; tuition waivers

Would provide a State university or community college tuition waiver to children under the age of 30 of veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces who are rated as 30% or more disabled by the federal VA and who were residents of Arizona or stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the disability rating.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 10 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Education Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. **Thurs, 18 Jan 2018-In Senate Education Committee, two Sen. Brophy McGee amendments adopted; 1) to reduce all legislatively mandated tuition waiver scholarships by the amount of any other public scholarships or grants or aid received by the person receiving the tuition waiver and appropriating the sum of \$9 million to the Arizona Board of Regents for the cost of tuition waivers in 2018-2019; 2) to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to Arizona community college districts to cover tuition waivers. SB 1088 was given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation by Senate Education Committee 7-0.**

SB 1089- purple heart day

Would make each 7 August "Purple Heart Day" in Arizona. Not a legal holiday.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 10 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **Mon, 22 Jan 2018-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 8-0. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 pm, Senate Caucus Room 1.**

SB 1090- Beirut barracks bombing remembrance day

Would make each 23 October in Arizona “Beirut Barracks Bombing Remembrance Day” to commemorate the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on 23 October 1983. Not a legal holiday.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 10 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **Mon, 22 Jan 2018-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 8-0. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 pm, Senate Caucus Room 1.**

SB 1128- voter identification; veterans

Would allow valid health identification cards issued by the federal VA to be used for voter registration

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Martin Quezada, D-Dist. 29

Major Actions: 11 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1167- veterans; increased income tax subtraction

The current Arizona tax deduction for military retirement is \$2,500 per year. SB 1167 would increase that deduction over the next two years to \$10,000.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **Weds. 24 Jan 2018-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Finance Committee 4-3. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 pm, Senate Caucus Room 1.**

SB 1179- memorial; buffalo soldiers

Would authorize a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Catherine Miranda, D-Dist. 27

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1184- state compact; temporary professional licenses

Would authorize the State of Arizona to enter into a compact with other states to grant a temporary professional license to eligible licensees, including military spouses, moving to a compact state.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. John Kavanagh, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1188- veterans; outdoor recreation; grants

Would appropriate \$25,000 for the establishment of the Arizona Veterans' Outdoor Behavioral Health Grant Program administered by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. The program would award grants to eligible partnerships to provide outdoor behavioral health therapy opportunities through outdoor education and recreation for Arizona veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or other behavioral health issues as a result of military service.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Steve Farley, D-Dist. 9

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1220- family caregiver income tax credit

Would give a tax credit after December 31, 2018 for a taxpayer who incurs qualifying expenses during the taxable year for the care and support of a qualifying family member in the taxpayer's home. The amount of the credit is 50% of the qualifying expenses but not more than \$1,000. Taxpayers must file a residential Arizona tax return and the taxpayer's Arizona gross income may not exceed \$75,000 single/married filing separately or \$150,000 married filing jointly. Same as HB 2087.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Kate Brophy-McGee, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1239- tribal nations; veterans' services; appropriation

Would appropriate \$2.2 million to the Arizona department of Veterans' Services for 20 Veteran Benefit Counselors to serve rural tribal nations.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1253- game and fish; licenses; fees

Among other things, would allow Arizona Game and Fish to provide reduced fee licenses to U. S. Armed Forces veterans who receives compensation for a service-connected disability who has been an Arizona resident for at least one year prior to applying for the license. Same as HB 2310.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14, et al

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Natural Recourses, Energy and Water Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Natural Recourses, Energy and Water Committee, 2 pm, SHR 109.

SB 1268- class six property; elderly homeowners

Would classify as "Class 6 property", taxed at 5% of value, the primary residence on a single parcel of real property up to 40 acres under certain conditions of residents 65 years of age or older who qualify for property valuation protection under Article IX, Section 18, Subsection (7) of the Arizona Constitution if the person does not own any other real property. Residents must live in the property for two years. If the county assessor approves a property valuation protection, the value for tax purposes of the property shall remain fixed as long as the owner remains eligible. The short title of this bill is "*Senior Citizen and Veteran Tax Relief Act*".

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Judy Burges, R-Dist. 22, et al

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Weds, 31 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Finance Committee, 9 am, SHR 1.

SB 1278- alternative fuel special plates; veterans

Would allow the owner of a qualified alternative fuel vehicle with veteran special license plates to be issued the diamond shaped alternative fuel sticker for placement on the vehicle's plate. This would allow that vehicle to use high occupancy vehicle lanes at any time regardless of the number of people in the vehicle.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Steve Farley, D-Dist. 9

Major Actions: 23 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Transportation and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Tues, 30 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Transportation and Technology Committee, 2 pm, SHR 1.

SB 1300- medical marijuana; patient cards; veterans

Would make the application fee for a veteran (not defined in the bill) to obtain an Arizona medical marijuana card \$75. Currently, the fee is \$150.00, which can be reduced to \$75.00 if the patient participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Andrea Dalessandro, D-Dist. 2, et al

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Health and Human Services Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1314- employment; housing; public accommodations; antidiscrimination

Would amend current statute to make unlawful public accommodation and employment discrimination based on veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Veteran status is defined in the bill as, "having served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States". Same as HB 2662.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Katie Hobbs, D-Dist. 24, et al

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SCR 1004- Beirut bombing; remembrance day

A concurrent resolution to honor the victims of the 1983 bombing of the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon and to proclaim October 23, 2018 as Beirut Bombing Remembrance Day in Arizona.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 11 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Mon, 22 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 8-0. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 pm, Senate Caucus Room 1.

SCR 1007- senior property valuation freeze; income

In 2000, voters approved an Arizona Constitutional property valuation protection option for Arizona residents who are 65 years of age or older. In order to qualify for the option, a person must have resided on the property for at least two years, and the total combined income of the property owner, including nontaxable income, must not exceed 400 percent of the supplemental security income benefit rate established in the Social Security Act. If a property is owned by two or more persons, the total combined income must not exceed 500 percent of this amount. The county assessor must take the average of the person's total income over three years in the review of eligibility. If an application for a protection option is approved, the value of the property is fixed at the full cash value of the property at the time the application is filed, and remains fixed for three years (Ariz. Const. art. 9, § 18).

According to the Social Security Administration, the current monthly Supplemental Security Income payment authorized by Section 1611(b)(1) of the Social Security Act is \$750. This means that an applicant for the valuation protection program must not have a three-year average income exceeding \$36,000 if the applicant is the sole owner of the property, or \$45,000 if the property is owned by two or more persons. **Would have to be approved by voters in the next general election should SCR 1007 pass.**

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Weds. 24 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Finance Committee 7-0. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 pm, Senate Caucus Room 1.

House Bills

HB 2015- tax credits; exemptions; sunset repeal

Among other things, would remove the annual \$1-million Military Family Relief Fund tax credit from statutory review by the Joint Legislative Income Tax Credit Review Committee.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 19

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2027- alternative fuel special plates; veterans

Would allow the owner of a qualified alternative fuel vehicle with veteran special license plates to be issued the diamond shaped alternative fuel sticker for placement on the vehicle's plate. This would allow that vehicle to use high occupancy vehicle lanes at any time regardless of the number of people in the vehicle.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Randy Friese, D-Dist. 9, et al.

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. Weds, 17 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 7-0-1 absent.

HB 2057- state guard; composition; firearms; equipment

Outlines what weapons members of the Arizona State Guard, if established, may purchase including, "any other small arms weapons system, ammunition, accessory or equipment that is in use by the Armed Forces of the United States or that is authorized for use by any law enforcement agency in this state."

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. David Stringer, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2058- state guard; firearms; training program

Would establish the Arizona Citizens Marksmanship Program under the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) to provide firearms training to citizens and residents who are eligible to be members of the Arizona State Guard. DEMA would also be permitted to sell firearms to promote marksmanship skills.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. David Stringer, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2087- family caregiver income tax credit

Would give a tax credit after December 31, 2018 for a taxpayer who incurs qualifying expenses during the taxable year for the care and support of a qualifying family member in the taxpayer's home. The amount of the credit is 50% of the qualifying expenses but not more than \$1,000. Taxpayers must file a residential Arizona tax return and the taxpayer's Arizona gross income may not exceed \$75,000 single/married filing separately or \$150,000 married filing jointly. Same as SB 1220.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee. Weds, 17 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Ways and Means Committee, 7-2, however the sense of the committee is that the bill "needs work" and without that work may not make it off the floor. **Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Rules Committee, 1 pm, HHR 4.**

HB 2191- military families; assistance; subaccounts

Extends the existing Military Family Relief Fund to 2026 and creates another separate sub account like the Military Family Relief Fund for the assistance of "Pre-9/11" veterans and their families who qualify.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee. **Mon 22 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. Weds, 31 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Appropriations Committee, 2 pm, HHR 1.**

HB 2192- military family relief fund; extension

Simply extends the existing Military Family Relief Fund to 2026 which is set to expire on 31 December 2018.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. **Mon 22 Jan 2018-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. Mon, 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Rules Committee, 1 pm, HHR 4.**

HB 2234- veterans; mental health courts; establishment

Would mandate the establishment of a special court in each county to oversee cases of veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder who are charged with felony aggravated DUI.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Ray Martinez, D-Dist. 30, et al

Major Actions: **18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and House Rules Committee.**

HB 2236- military pensions; increase; tax subtraction

The current Arizona tax deduction for military retirement is \$2,500 per year. HB 2236 would increase that deduction over the next ten years to \$15,000.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. David Livingston, R-Dist. 22, et al

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), House Ways and Means Committee, and House Rules Committee.

HB 2310- game and fish; licenses; fees

Among other things, would allow Arizona Game and Fish to provide reduced fee licenses to U. S. Armed Forces veterans who receives compensation for a service-connected disability who has been an Arizona resident for at least one year prior to applying for the license. Same as SB 1253.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Russell Bowers, R-Dist. 25

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Energy, Environment and National Resources Committee and House Rules Committee. Tues, 30 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Energy, Environment and National Resources Committee, 2 pm, HHR 3.

HB 2317- disability plates; permanent placards

Under this bill, an Arizona veteran with a VA certified 100% disability can obtain a permanent disability windshield placard for the automobile that will not expire as long as the veteran's certified 100% disability exists. Currently, the placards are only good for five years.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Drew John, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2395- service animals; identification cards

Would allow Arizona Department of Transportation to issue a "Service Animal Identification Card" to the handler of a service animal. Lack of such a license does not create a presumption that the animal is not a service animal or that the animal and handler are not entitled to the protections afforded to a bona fide service animal.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Dist. 6

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2412- leave of absence; day; definition

Defines "Day" as a "shift of work" for state employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve Forces who are entitled to leave from the state job on days the employee reports for military training.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Thomas Shope, R-Dist. 8

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. **Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), 2 pm, HHR 3.**

HB 2419- memorial; buffalo soldiers

Would authorize a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Government Committee and House Rules Committee. **Thurs, 1 Feb 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Government Committee, 9.30 am, HHR 1.**

HB 2420- veterans' services; benefits counselors; appropriation

Would appropriate \$707,890 to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for hiring ten additional veteran benefit counselors.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee. **Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), 2 pm, HHR 3.**

HB 2421- national guard; employment rights

Would clearly state that Arizona employers must allow members of the National Guard of any state time off to participate in ordered drills. There are residents of Arizona who are members of other state's National Guard and residents of other states who are members of the Arizona National Guard.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. **Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), 2 pm, HHR 3.**

HB 2424- procurement; veterans; Arizona bidders; preference

Would give preference to businesses who qualify as a "veteran owned business" or an "Arizona bidder" over non-resident bidders for state contracts.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Diego Espinoza, D-Dist. 19, et al

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Government Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2440- VLT exemption; veteran amputees

Would exempt from the vehicle license tax a veteran classified by the VA as at least 40% disabled as the result of a lower limb amputation and who is drawing VA compensation on that basis.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 19, et al

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. **Weds, 31 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2 pm, HHR 3.**

HB 2662- employment; housing; public accommodations; antidiscrimination

Would amend current statute to make unlawful public accommodation and employment discrimination based on veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Veteran status is defined in the bill as, "having served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States".

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Rebecca Rios, D-Dist. 27, et al

Major Actions:

HB 2475- appropriation; Arizona national guard; tuition

Would appropriate \$1.446 million in 2018-2019 to the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) for tuition and fees for members of the Arizona National Guard who have completed a semester as a full-time or part-time graduate or undergraduate student at a public or private postsecondary educational institution for which credit toward a degree or diploma is granted or a certificated vocational technical school in this state.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al

Major Actions:

HCM 2003- deported veterans; medical treatment

A House Concurrent Memorial urging the U. S. Congress to pass legislation providing medical treatment and other benefits to deported foreign nationals who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Diego Espinoza, D-Dist. 19, et al

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. **Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), 2 pm, HHR 3.**

HCR 2002- state militia; age requirement

Under Arizona's Constitution, the State Militia consists of "all capable citizens of the state between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years." This would ask voters to amend that to "all capable citizens of this state who are at least eighteen years of age and who are capable of acting in concert for the common defense". Basically, it does away with the upper age limit for people capable of fighting.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. David Stringer, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. **Mon. 29 Jan 2018-Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), 2 pm, HHR 3.**