

## ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

### 53rd Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

Friday, 10 March 2017

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 information or final action.)*

SB = Senate Bill

SCM = Senate Concurrent Memorial

SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution

SR = Senate Resolution

SCR-Senate Joint Resolutions

HB = House Bill

HCM = House Concurrent Memorial

HCR = House Concurrent Resolution

HJR= House Joint Resolution

HR = House Resolution

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

### Senate Bills

#### **SB 1110- tax subtraction; uniformed services pay**

Would extend Arizona tax exemption to the pay of active service members of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 5-2-1 not voting. 15 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Finance Committee 5-2. 23 Feb 2017- Passed Senate 27-3 and transmitted to the House. **28 Feb 2017-First Read in House and assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee.**

#### **SB 1118- military justice; nonjudicial punishment procedures**

Would make technical changes to the Arizona Uniform Code of Military Justice.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Steve Smith, R-Dist. 11; Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 23 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, 8-0. 30 Jan 2017-Out of Senate Rules Committee. 2 Feb 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 20 Feb 2017-First Read in House and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and

House Rules Committee. **6 March 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee 9-0.**

**SB 1248- building code moratorium; repeal-Subject of Strike Everything Amendment: income tax subtraction; military retirement**

If stricken, would seek to incrementally reduce Arizona income tax on military retirement pay beginning in tax year 2019 fully deducting military retirement pay in 2022.

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

**Major Actions:** **6 March 2017-Hearing was scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee during which a Strike Everything” amendment was to be offered changing the bill into military retirement tax exemption bill. Bill was held in committee by chairman and is not on next agenda.**

**SB 1327- Gold Star memorial**

Would authorize the placement of a Gold Star memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol. No public money is allowed for the memorial nor is the State allowed to assist in fund raising for the memorial.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Debbie Lesko, R-Dist. 21, et al.

**Major Actions:** **26 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Government Committee, 7-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of Senate Rules Committee. 14 Feb 2017- Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in House and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 27 Feb 2017- Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House MVRA 9-0. 9 March 2017-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and returned to the Senate.**

**SB 1443- veterans’ donations fund; tax credit**

Would extend the Military Family Relief Fund from 2018 to 2025 and cap the Military Family Relief Fund at its current amount by moving the associated \$1-mil per year tax credit to the Veteran Donations Fund which, by statute, is to be used “for the benefit of the veterans (of all eras) within this state as grants”.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al.

**Major Actions:** **31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 15 February 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Finance Committee 4-2-1 not voting. 21 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Appropriations Committee 9-0-1 not voting. 27 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate COW. 28 Feb 2017-Passed Senate 29-1 and transmitted to the House. 6 March 2017- First Read in House and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee.**

**SCR 1028- veterans’ services; Navajo nation; cooperation**

A Concurrent Resolution expressing the State's commitment to ensuring continued cooperation between the Navajo Nation and the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7; et al.

**Major Actions:** 1 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 8-0. 20 Feb 2017-Out of Senate Rules. 23 Feb 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. **6 March 2017-First Read in House and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. Given a "Do Pass" in House MVRA Committee 7-2.**

## House Bills

### **HB 2004- veteran-owned businesses; procurement preference**

Would require the Arizona Department of Administration to establish a goal of awarding 1.5% of State contracts to qualified veteran-owned businesses beginning 1 January 2017 and increasing to 3% per year after. Requires the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish a registry of veteran-owned businesses and verify the veteran status and eligibility of businesses seeking to be awarded a contract under this proposal.

A qualifying veteran-owned business is "an individual proprietorship, partnership, corporation or joint venture that is at least 51-percent owned by one or more veterans receiving monthly combat-related special compensation." The qualifying veteran(s) would have to control management and daily control of the business, and the home office of the business would have to be in Arizona and not a branch or subsidiary of a foreign company.

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

**Major Actions:** 9 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee and House Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee 9-0 with probably floor amendments coming. 15 Feb-Out of Rules and placed on Consent Calendar. 21 Feb 2017-Cardenas floor amendment adopted clarifying that the participation goal of awarding state contracts after the first year is 3% and removing the requirement that veteran owned businesses use at least 50% of the proceeds from their state contract to pay employee salaries. Given a "Do Pass" amendment in House COW. Passed House 38-20-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **27 Feb 2017-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Rules Committee.**

### **HB 2107- schools; nonresident pupils; military duty**

Would grant required school attendance residency status for children of active duty military members who are transferred to a military installation in any Arizona school district.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Paul Boyer, R-Dist. 20

**Major Actions:** 12 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 23 Jan 2017- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in the House Education Committee, 9-0-2 not voting. 2 Feb 2017-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 16 Feb 2017-First Read in the Senate and assigned to the Senate

**Education Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 2 March 2017-Allen 3 line amendment adopted expanding to all local schools not just school districts and given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Education Committee 7-0. 6 March 2017-Out of Senate Rules.**

### **HB 2117- state militia; firearms; rights**

Would amend current state statute regarding the composition of the Arizona militia to include all able bodied “and law abiding” residents of Arizona “who own a firearm” and are between the ages of 18 to 45. Current exemptions for mental illness, blindness and conviction of infamous crimes among other exemptions remain in effect. The second part of the proposal reinforces the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Article II of the Constitution of the State of Arizona to keep and bear arms and states that that right may not be called into question by Federal, State, or local government.

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

**Major Actions:** 12 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy (FPRPP) Committee and House Rules Committee. 24 Jan 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House FPRPP Committee, 8-0-3 not voting. 23 Feb 2017- Passed House 35-25 and transmitted to the Senate.

### **HB 2204- Native American veterans; tax settlement**

Would backdate the eligibility period a Native veteran’s qualifying active military pay state tax was withheld from the current September 1, 1993 to July 1, 1977 and would extend the deadline for submitting claims from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2019.

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

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Passed House 57-1-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

### **HB 2270- postsecondary education; veterans; transfer credits**

Would expand current statute requiring Arizona’s public universities and community colleges to award academic credit for a veteran’s or active military member’s “military skills, knowledge and competencies” acquired during U. S. military service toward the pursuit of an associate degree or certification and also apply the expanded statute to state licensed private vocational programs.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Maria Syms, R-Dist. 28, et al.

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Education Committee, 10-0-1 not voting. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Education Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 9 March 2017- Two line Allen technical amendment adopted and given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation in the Senate Education Committee 6-0-1 not voting.

### **HB 2271- occupational licensing; military members**

Would accept substantially equivalent military training, education, or experience to “completely or partially” satisfy requirements for a state-issued license, certificate, or registration. Regulating entities will verify a veteran’s military education, training or experience through the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Maria Syms, R-Dist. 28, et al.

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 27 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 7-0-1 not voting. **6 March 2017- Out of Senate Rules and placed on Consent Calendar.**

### **HB 2297- national guard; readiness center; appropriation**

Would appropriate \$6-million for the Arizona National Guard to establish and build a readiness center if federal portion of the funding becomes available.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Anthony Kern, R-Dist. 20

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Appropriations Committee and House Rules Committee. 8 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Appropriations Committee, 13-0-1 not voting. 15 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules 7-0-2 not voting. 21 Feb 2017- Passed House 47-11-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **27 Feb 2017-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Rules Committee.**

### **HB 2309- military family relief fund; continuation**

Would remove the effective date for eligibility (September 11, 2001) that a service member applying for monies from the Military Family Relief Fund must have been injured, wounded or become seriously ill and extends the fund from 2018 to 2022.

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

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017- Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee. Held in House MVRA Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0. 16 Feb 2017- Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee.**

### **HB 2324- VLT; registration; exemptions; Purple Heart**

Would exempt “bona fide Purple Heart recipients” and their surviving spouses from the state vehicle license tax on initial registration.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Travis W. Grantham, R-Dist. 12

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 8-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Committee of the Whole. 13 Feb 2017- Passed House 48-11-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Transportation and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **28 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Transportation and Technology Committee 4-3.**

### **HB 2341- national guard; deployment; professional licenses**

Current statute extends a state issued license, certificate or registration for a member of the “Arizona National Guard or the United States armed forces reserves” 180 days following return from federal active duty or if the member is released from active duty following an injury. This would change the language to “national guard or other reserve component”.

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

**Major Actions:** 26 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0. 13 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules. 16 Feb 2017- Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **27 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 7-0-1 not voting.**

### **HB 2342- veterans’ services; benefits counselors; appropriation**

Would appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services to hire 10 additional veteran benefit counselors.

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

**Major Actions:** 24 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, House Appropriations Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 7-2. 22 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Appropriations Committee 12-1-1 not voting. 27 Feb 2017-Out of Rules 8-0-1 not voting. 2 March 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House COW. Passed House 38-21-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 6 March 2017-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **13 March 2017-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, 2p.m., SHR 1.**

### **HB 2352- national guard; reduced tuition rate**

Would allow members of the Arizona National Guard to attend any Arizona public institution of higher learning at the tuition rate paid by employees of the school if the National Guard member has exhausted vocational rehabilitation training under 38 USC 3100 through 3122 or Post 9/11 educational assistance.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Anthony Kern, R-Dist. 20

**Major Actions:** 26 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0. 13 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules. 16 Feb 2017-Failed in House 23-35-2 not voting. 20 Feb 2017-Representative Kern moved that the House reconsider HB 2352 within the next 14 days. Motion passed by voice vote. **Bill not reconsidered.**

**HB 2415-** in-state tuition; veterans (Emergency Clause, requires 2/3ds vote; effective on Governor’s signature.)

Congress recently modified Public Law 114-315, which modifies 38 U.S.C. 3679(c) pertaining to veterans’ in-state tuition. The change put a number of states, including Arizona, out of compliance with the changed law and, without a change in state statute people will be unable to use veterans’ educational benefits in Arizona after 1 July 2017. The language in HB 2415 has been reviewed by the VA and will make Arizona compliant. Currently there are approximately 23,000 veterans/families using such benefits in Arizona.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

**Major Actions:** 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee 9-0. 15 Feb 2017- Technical Rules amendment adopted. Out of House Rules, 8-0-1 not voting. 20 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House COW. 21 Feb 2017-Passed House with Emergency Clause 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 28 Feb 2017-First Read in the Senate and assigned to Senate Education Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **9 March 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in the Senate Education Committee 6-0-1 not voting.**

**HB 2433-** income tax subtraction; veterans’ pensions

Would exempt \$5,000 of a U. S. veterans’ pension from Arizona State income tax each year OR would exempt “the full amount of benefits, annuities and pensions” of an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in a combat zone during a period of war or against hostile forces. The exemption would be retroactive to and after December 31, 2016.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Todd Clodfelter, R-Dist. 10; et al.

**Major Actions:** 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee. 15 Feb 2017- Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Ways and Means Committee 8-0-1 absent. 20 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules. 22 Feb 2017-Clodfelter floor amendment adopted requiring the taxpayer to acquire documentation verifying the taxpayer’s status as a veteran, the period of active duty service or the conditions of discharge from the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense. Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House COW. Passed House 40-19-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **28 Feb 2017- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee.**

**HCR 2025- hidden heroes' day; military caregivers**

A House Concurrent Resolution that would proclaim 20 May 2017 as Hidden Heroes Day in honor of the military and veteran caregivers who daily care for wounded servicemembers and veterans.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Travis W. Grantham, R-Dist. 12; et al.

**Major Actions:** 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee; not heard in committee because not First Read. 16 Feb 2017- First and Second Reading waived and passed House by unanimous vote and transmitted to the Senate.