

ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

52nd Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

Tuesday, 14 April 2015

The First Regular Session of the 52nd Arizona Legislature adjourned sine die early on Friday, 3 April. Bills with Emergency Clauses became effective immediately upon the Governor's signature. All other bills become effective on 3 July 2015.

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

SB = Senate Bill

SCM = Senate Concurrent Memorial

SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution

SR = Senate Resolution

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.asp>

Senate Bills

SB 1296- spousal maintenance; veterans disability benefits

Clarifies the term "requesting party" in the statute so that a veteran receiving disability who is seeking spousal maintenance will not have their disability payments considered by the judge in determining the amount of spousal maintenance awarded to that veteran.

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Steve Smith, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 6 March 2015-Passed Senate 24-4-2 not voting and transmitted to the House. 25 March 2015- Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and returned to the Senate. 30 March 2015- Transmitted to the Governor. 1 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

SCM 1008- disability rating process; veterans

A concurrent memorial urging the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to review the disability rating process for veterans.

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Steve Smith, R-Dist. 11; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 9 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 29 - 0 -1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 19 March 2015-Passed House 55-0-5 not voting and returned to the Senate. 23 March 2015- Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.

SCM 1009- military bases; endangered species act

A concurrent memorial urging the U. S. Congress to enact legislation exempting U.S. military bases from the regulations and restrictions of the Endangered Species Act.

Primary Sponsor: **Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14, et al.**

Major Actions: **16 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 18-11-1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 18 March 2015-Passed House 34-23-3 not voting and returned to the Senate. 19 March 2015- Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

SCR 1014- military bases; expressing support

A concurrent resolution expressing the Legislature's support for the military facilities located in Arizona.

Primary Sponsor: **Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14, et al.**

Major Actions: **19 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 17 March 2015-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and returned to the Senate. 18 March 2015- Transmitted to Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

House Bills

HB 2090- military family relief fund; amount

Would allow the Military Family Relief Fund committee to award up to \$20,000 per qualified family up from \$10,000.

Primary Sponsors: **Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5. ; Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 19**

Major Actions: **29 Jan 2015-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 2 April 2015-Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House. Transmitted to the Governor. 6 April 2015- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

HB 2091- veterans; in-state tuition (Emergency Clause; effective upon signature.)

To amend A.R.S. 15-1802 to comply with provisions of the federal Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act") Section 702 so veterans and their families can use GI Bill benefits at Arizona public institutions of higher learning after July 1, 2015.

Primary Sponsor: **Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.**

Major Actions: **12 Feb 2015- Passed House with Emergency Clause 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 31 March 2015-Passed Senate with Emergency Clause 29-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. 1 April 2015- Transmitted to the Governor. 6 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. Effective on signature. ACTION COMPLETED.**

HB 2092- military scholarship special plates

Would create a special "military scholarship" vehicle license plate with proceeds from sale of the plates going to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

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Primary Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5. ; et al.

Major Actions: 9 February 2015-Passed House 52-7-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 23 March 2015-Passed Senate 23-5-2 not voting and returned to the House. 24 March 2015-Transmitted to the Governor. 30 March 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2094- ~~mobile home parks; tree maintenance~~ NOW: voluntary veterans' preference employment policy

Yee Strike Everything amendment adopted that would allow a private employer to adopt a voluntary veterans' preference employment policy, provided that the policy is kept in writing and applied uniformly to employment decisions.

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Doug Coleman, R-Dist. 16; Strike Everything amendment from Sen. Kimberly Yee, R-Dist. 20.

Major Actions: 18 March 2015-Yee Strike Everything amendment adopted in Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee changing this into bill on voluntary veterans' preference employment policy. 31 March 2015-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. 2 April 2015-Transmitted to the Governor. 6 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2103- military affairs commission; membership; confidentiality

Would increase the number of people serving on the Military Affairs Commission from 13 to 16 and requiring that 12 members reside in a community in which a military installation is located, up from 10; 6 members shall have expertise in military affairs, up from 5; and 6 members shall be elected officials, up from 5. Other like changes. Would also make commission discussions on base closures exempt from public meeting law and commission strategies on keeping bases open in Arizona confidential.

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5.

Major Actions: 3 March 2015-Passed House 60-0 and transmitted to the Senate. 31 March 2015-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. 1 April 2015-Transmitted to the Governor. 6 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2106- emergency and military affairs; continuation

Would extend the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs and the State Emergency Council until July 1, 2023.

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5. ; et al.

Major Actions: 25 Feb 2015-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 23 March 2015-Passed Senate 28-0-2 not voting and returned to the House. 24 March 2015-Transmitted to the Governor. 26 March 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2240- national guard members; tuition waivers

Would provide tuition waivers up to 16 credits per semester for members of the Arizona National Guard to complete a bachelor's or master's degree at a state public institution of higher learning if the member meets certain conditions outlined in the bill. **Beneficiary must be resident of Arizona, have Home of Record as Arizona or entered Active Duty from Arizona AND not be eligible for GI Bill educational benefits. Further amended so that program does not take effect until school year 2017-2018, allows members to use for any classes offered, and requires that donations be collected to pay for any costs of the program.**

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

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Major Actions: 5 Feb 2015-Kern amendment adopted clarifying that beneficiary must be resident of Arizona, have Home of Record as Arizona or entered Active Duty from Arizona AND not be eligible for GI Bill educational benefits. March 2015-Passed House 60-0 and transmitted to the Senate. 23 March 2015- Ward floor amendment adopted delaying effective date until school year 2017-18, allows member to use for any classes offered, and requires that donations be collected to pay for costs. 2 April 2015-Passed Senate 26-1-3 not voting and returned to the House. Final Passed in House 58-0-2 not voting. 6 April 2015-Transmitted to the Governor. 10 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2274- emergency and military affairs omnibus

Makes a number of technical corrections in various statutes regarding the Department of Military and Emergency Affairs. Allows the Adjutant General to use any National Guard facility for commercial purposes, rather than only the rental or use of armories, and deposits proceeds from these activities into the National Guard Fund for use at any Arizona National Guard facility, rather than only armories. Also authorizes the use of Camp Navajo Fund monies at any Arizona National Guard facility provided that all funding obligations for the Camp Navajo site are met.

Original Sponsors: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5. ; Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 19

Major Actions: 3 March 2015-Passed House 60-0 and transmitted to the Senate. 31 March 2015-Passed Senate 28-1-1 not voting and returned to the House. 1 April 2015- Final Passage in House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Governor. 6 April 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HB 2294- courts; approved screening, treatment facilities

Currently, judges may sentence certain offenders (domestic violence, drug, alcohol, etc.) to complete screening at a facility approved by the Department of Health Services. HB 2274 would expand that screening to facilities approved also by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Farnsworth, R-Dist. 12.

Major Actions: 19 Feb 2015-Passed House 57-0-3 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 23 March 2015-Passed Senate 28-0-2 not voting and returned to the House. 24 March 2015- Transmitted to the Governor. 26 March 2015-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.

HR 2001- American Legion; technology infrastructure improvement

A House resolution supporting the American Legion Arizona Department's efforts of improving the technology of the U.S. Department Veterans Affairs and asking the American Legion National Headquarters to create an automatic enrollment process for servicemembers into the VA system at the point of separation.

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Dist. 1.; et al.

Major Actions: 9 March 2015- Read on floor of House. Unanimously adopted by House and transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.

BILLS INTRODUCED BUT NOT MAKING IT THROUGH THE PROCESS

**SB 1060 - technical correction; counties; powers (strike everything amendment)
- military retirees; pension exclusion amount**

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SB 1137- declaration of disaster; military installations

SB 1422- G&F; veterans; bonus point

HB 2104- lottery game; veteran's assistance fund

**HB 2165 - ~~unlawful sexual conduct; peace officers (strike everything amendment)~~
- veteran education; fund; advisory committee**

HB 2258- auto title loans; military members

HB 2500- unpaid leave; employee; military family

HB 2501- women veteran special plates

HB 2575- declaration of disaster; military installations

HB 2584- veteran-owned businesses; procurement preference

HCR 2007-Fisher Houses; twenty-fifth anniversary

HCR 2008- Arizona veterans hall of fame