

ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

14 March 2014

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 new information or final action.)

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

PSRMA=Public Safety, Military and Regulatory
Affairs Committee

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

Friday, 21 March 2014-Last day to hear House bills in Senate committees, and Senate bills in House committees.

Senate Bills

SB 1040- leave of absence; auxiliary members NOW: auxiliary members; leave of absence

Would authorize leaves of absence for training purposes for public employees who are members of an "auxiliary of the Armed Forces of the United States" such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Civil Air Patrol.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Barto, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to the Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, the Senate Government and Environment Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee. 27 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Government and Environment Committee, 5-1-1 not voting. 29 Jan 2014-Held in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee. 4 Feb 2014-Melvin amendment limiting leave for public employees who are auxiliary members to 30 days in any two consecutive years was adopted. Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation by Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 4-0-3 not voting. 5 Feb 2014-Reassigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee for purpose of adding a "Strike Everything" amendment. 12 Feb 2014- Strike Everything amendment, same topic, adopted and bill given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. 20 Feb 2014-Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 24 Feb 2014-Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 26 Feb 2014- First Read in House and assigned to the House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 6-0-2 not voting.**

SB 1099- Navajo code talkers' day

Would place in statute that each August 14th is Navajo Code Talkers' Day, (not a legal holiday).

Original Sponsor: Sen. Carlyle Begay, D-Dist. 7; et al

Major Actions: 21 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to Senate Government and Environment Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 17 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Government and Environment Committee 7-0. 24 Feb 2014-Out of Senate Rules, placed on Consent Calendar. 27 Feb 2014-Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 5 March 2014-First Read in House and assigned to the House Government Committee and House Rules Committee. **18 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in House Government Committee, 2 p.m., HHR 4.**

SB 1312- Vietnam veterans day

Would make each March 29th recognized as "Vietnam Veterans Day" in Arizona, not a legal holiday. Would supersede a concurrent resolution passed in 2010 and place the recognition in statute.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. 17 Feb 2014-Out of Senate Rules and placed on Consent Calendar. 20 Feb 2014-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 25 Feb 2014- First Read in House and assigned to the House PSMRA Committee, House Appropriations Committee and House Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 6-0-2 not voting. 19 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in House Appropriations Committee 2 p.m., HHR 1.**

SB 1313- Arizona gold star military medal

Would authorize the creation of the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal to recognize and be awarded to Arizona servicemembers killed in the line of duty or in support of combat operations since Arizona became a state on 14 Feb 1912.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014, Melvin technical amendment adopted and given a "Do Pass Amended" in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. 17 Feb 2014-Out of Senate Rules. 20 Feb 2014-Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 24 Feb 2014-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 26 Feb 2014-First Read in House and assigned to the House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 6-0-2 not voting.**

SB 1328- state parks; disabled veteran's pass

Would allow the Arizona State Parks Board to issue a disabled veteran's pass to all State parks in Arizona at no charge to Arizona veterans at least 30-percent service-connected disabled who have been resident for at least the past twelve months.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Don Shooter, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions: 4 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. 3 March 2014-Out of Senate Rules and placed on Consent Calendar. **10 March 2014-Passed Senate 25-0-5 not voting and transmitted to the House. 11 March 2014- First Read in the House and assigned to House PSMRA Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee.**

SB 1401- United States submarine memorial

Would authorize the building of a memorial dedicated to United States submarine veterans in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State capitol.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 4 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. 26 Feb 2014- Out of Senate Rules. 27 Feb 2014- Given Do Pass Amended recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 4 March 2014-First Read in House and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 6-0-2 not voting.**

SCR 1008- commendation; Davis-Monthan air force base NOW: support; military installations

A concurrent resolution recognizing and commending the personnel of Tucson's Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 6 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2014- A "Strike Everything" amendment to support all military installations in Arizona adopted in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, and given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation 5-0-2 not voting. 5 Mar 2014-Given "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 6 March 2014-Passed Senate 27-0-3 not voting and transmitted to the House. **11 March 2014-First Read in House and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 19 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 10 a.m., HHR 3.**

House Bills

HB 2103- concealed carry permit; qualifications

Would issue concealed weapons permits to U.S. Citizens or residents of this state, 21 years old or older, OR at least 19 years old who provides evidence of current military service or proof of honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces, Reserve, or a State National Guard.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Townsend, R-Dist. 16, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 5-3. 3 March 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. **10 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 39-18-3 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 11 March 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 17 March 2014- Hearing scheduled in Senate Judiciary Committee 2 p.m., SHR1.**

HB 2135- military affairs commission; continuation

Would continue the Arizona Military Affairs Commission to 1 July 2022.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Darin Mitchell, R-Dist. 13, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. Wed, 29 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA

Committee 8-0. 3 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules Committee 6-0-0-3. Placed on Consent Calendar. 11 Feb 2014-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 18 Feb 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 26 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-0-2 not voting. **10 March 2014-Out of Senate Rules.**

HB 2150- empowerment scholarships; military families

Would exempt children whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are Active Duty members of the United States Armed Forces from certain eligibility requirements of the empowerment scholarship account program.

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

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 5-3. 3 March 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. **10 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 39-18-3 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Education Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 13 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Education Committee 5-1-3 not voting.**

HB 2204- military applicants; commercial driver licenses

Would waive the driving test requirement for class A, B or C licenses for qualified applicants who can prove they were in a military position requiring operation of a commercial motor vehicle within the past 12 months. Current statute requires it be within the past 90 days. *Borrelli amendment brings it back to 90 days in current statute and requires applicant to show they were operating a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle the driver applicant now operates or expects to operate, for at least the 2 years immediately preceding discharge from the military.*

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Karen Fann, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Transportation Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2014-Borrelli amendment adopted in House Transportation Committee complying with 49 Code of Federal Regulations Section 383.77 which brings the time period back to the current 90 days following discharge (see <http://www.law.comell.edu/cfr/text/49/383.77>). Bill given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation 6-0. 17 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules. 20 Feb 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 25 Feb 2014- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Transportation Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 4 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Transportation Committee 4-0-3 not voting. **10 March 2014-Out of Senate Rules.**

HB 2303- permits or tags; transfer; veterans

Would permit the Department of Game and Fish to transfer a big game permit or tag from a person who wishes to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who has a service connected disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Frank Pratt, R-Dist. 8; et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and House Rules Committee. 27 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, 8-0. 3 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules Committee 6-0-0-3 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar. 10 Feb 2014-Passed full House 57-3, transmitted to the Senate. 5 March 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **12 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee 8-0-1 not voting. 17 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Caucus Room 1.**

HB 2311- military justice; courts martial

Would revise provisions of the Arizona Code of Military Justice.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Justin Pierce, R-Dist. 25; Sen. David Bradley, D-Dist. 10

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Technical amendment adopted and given "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. 17 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 6-0-3 absent. 20 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 25 Feb 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to the Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 5 March 2014- Given "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 6-0-1 not voting. **17 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Caucus Room 1.**

HB 2332- unclaimed remains; veterans; burial

Would authorize the holder of the unclaimed cremated remains of a verified veteran to turn them over for burial in a veteran cemetery to a congressionally chartered veteran service organization, a veteran organization recognized by the VA, or a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) charitable organization that is organized for the verification and burial of veterans.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Orr, R-Dist. 9; et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Technical amended adopted and given "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 7-0-1 not voting. 18 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. 27 Feb 2014- Given "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. 4 March 2014-Passed House 54-1-5 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **13 March 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee.**

HB 2403- state parks; disabled veteran's pass

Would allow the State Parks Board to issue a free "Disabled Veterans' Pass" to residents of at least a year and a 30 percent verified service-connected disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Stevens, R-Dist. 14; et al.

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. 18 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar. 25 Feb 2014- Passed House 58-1-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 26 Feb 2014- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee. 11 March 2014-Removed from Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee agenda. 19 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 9 a.m., SHR 1.**

HB 2443- hunting and fishing licenses; military

Would allow military members on permanent assignment or TDY in Arizona to immediately apply for hunting or fishing license. Currently, there is a 30 day waiting period for servicemembers permanently assigned here.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Gowan, R-Dist. 14; et al.

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. 18 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar. 25 Feb 2014- Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 26 Feb 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee and Senate Rules

HB 2457- mental health; veterans courts; establishment

Would authorize the presiding judge of each county superior court to establish a *regional* veterans court. This would allow Justice of the Peace Courts as well as municipal courts in the county to transfer veterans cases to the regional veterans court.

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

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. 18 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar. 25 Feb 2014-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 26 Feb 2014- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **10 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Judiciary Committee 7-0-2 not voting. 17 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Caucus Room 1.**

HB 2475- tax credits; veterans

Would require the Arizona Department of Administration to establish a goal of awarding 1.5% of State contracts to **disabled** veteran-owned businesses increasing 3% or more for each year after the first year and require the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish a registry of **disabled** veteran-owned businesses and verify the veteran status and eligibility of businesses seeking to be considered for the registry. The home office of the business would have to be in Arizona and not a branch or subsidiary of a foreign company.

Would also establish a tax credit up to \$2,400 for each honorably discharged unemployed veteran who is not a family member hired by a taxpayer for a maximum of \$150,000.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 12; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 6-1-1 not voting. 4 March 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. **10 March 2014- Borrelli floor amendment adopted specifically stating that the stated percentage of state contracts must go to "disabled veteran owned businesses". Amendment also defines a "disabled veteran" as "a person who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, who is separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions following more than six months of Active Duty *and* who meets the requirements of Section 38-492, subsection E., which states: An honorably separated veteran who served on active duty in the armed forces at any time and who has a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation or disability retirement benefits under laws administered by the United States department of veterans affairs, army, navy, air force, coast guard or United States public health service ."** Mesnard floor amendment adopted stating an employer cannot fire a current employee to hire a veteran in order to get the tax credit. Bill given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation by Committee of the Whole House. Passed House 50-8-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate.

HB 2514- combat related special compensation

Would prohibit courts from considering service-connected disability benefits for combat-related disabled veterans in divorce proceedings when deciding distribution of property or spousal maintenance. Current statute prohibits same for Title 38 disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Townsend, D-Dist. 16; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 5 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary Committee and House Rules Committee. 20 Feb 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Judiciary Committee 8-0. 26 Feb 2014- Out of House Rules 8-0-2 not voting. 3 Mar 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation

6. 20 Feb 2014 - Out of House Rules 6-0-2 not voting. 6 Mar 2014 - Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. 5 Mar 2014 - Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. **11 March 2014-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 19 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 9 a.m., SHR 1.**

HB 2537- pawnbrokers; interest; military members

Would increase the interest pawnbrokers may charge from 8 to 13 % per month the first two months, but not more than 11% per month thereafter from the current 6%. Would also require pawnbrokers who receive copies of deployment orders for members of the Arizona National Guard, Reserves, or Active Duty military **or their spouses** to waive any unpaid interest charges and hold the pledged goods until 60 days after the military member returns from active duty service.

Original Sponsor: Rep. T. J. Shope, D-Dist. 8; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014- First Read and assigned to House Commerce Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House Commerce Committee 6-3. 10 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 7-0-0-2. Placed on Consent Calendar. 13 Feb 2014-Retained on the calendar in Committee of the Whole House. 17 Feb 2014-Borrelli technical floor amendment removing spouses from benefiting adopted and given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Committee of the Whole House. 18 Feb 2014-Passed by House 38-22 and transmitted to the Senate. 19 Feb 2014- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 5 March 2014- Given "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 5-1-1 not voting. Committee members would like to see a floor amendment restoring "spouses" to the bill as in red in body of description above. **17 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Caucus Room 1.**

HCM 2001-POWs; MIAs; congressional committee

A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Congress to establish a select committee on POW and MIA affairs.

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Paul Boyer, R-Dist. 20; Rep. Doris Goodale, R-Dist. 5; Sen. David Farnsworth, R-Dist. 16.

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. 18 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar. 25 Feb 2014- Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 26 Feb 2014- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **12 March 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 4-0-3 not voting. 17 March 2014-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Caucus Room 1.**

HM 2001- agent orange exposure; Vietnam veterans

Urging the U. S. Congress to restore the presumption of service connection between exposure to Agent Orange and subsequent illnesses contracted by Vietnam veterans.

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

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 7-0-0-1. 17 Feb 2014- Placed on Consent Calendar. 18 Feb 2014- Passed House 60-0 and Transmitted to the Secretary of State. **ACTION COMPLETED.**

HM 2002- burn pits; health risks; veterans

Urging the U. S. Congress to recognize the significant health risks connected to open-air burn pit exposure. Deployed units will often dispose of hazardous materials by burning them in open-air pits exposing military personnel to the smoke, etc. generated by the burning.

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

Major Actions: 12 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to House Health Committee. 19 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation House Health Committee 7-1. 3 March 2014-Out of House Rules 8-0-1 not voting. **10 March 2014- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. 11 March 2014-Passed House 45-13-2 not voting and transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**