

## ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

### 52<sup>nd</sup> Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

**Friday, 20 Feb 2015**

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

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

This week was last week to hear Senate bills in Senate committees and House bills in House committees. Those not heard are probably dead and will be dropped from the next report.

Bills that are probably dead or changed to not reflect veteran interest and will drop off this report are noted in green.

### Senate Bills

**SB 1060- technical correction; counties; powers NOW: military retirees; pension exclusion amount**

Strike Everything amendment adopted that would increase, from \$2,500 to \$3,000, the amount of military retired pay that can be subtracted in calculating gross income for State income tax purposes.

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

**Major Actions:** 17 Feb 2015-"Strike Everything" amendment adopted in Senate Appropriations Committee 8-0. 23 Feb 2015-Hearing scheduled in Senate Rules Committee, 1 p.m., Senate Caucus Room 1.

**SB 1137- declaration of disaster; military installations**

Would permit the State to incur expenses and liabilities in the case of an emergency declared by the Governor for events posing a significant, immediate and ongoing threat to the operations of a military installation in Arizona.

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Martin Quezada, D-Dist. 29, et al.

**Major Actions:** 22 Jan 2015-First read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Martin Quezada, D-Dist. 29, et al.

**Major Actions:** 22 Jan 2015-First read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology Committee (PSMT) and Senate Rules Committee.

**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:** 11 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology (PSMT) Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 18 Feb 2015-Smith amendment adopted in Senate PSMT Committee and given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation 6-0.

**SB 1422- G&F; veterans; bonus point**

Requires the Arizona Game and Fish Department to award veterans a bonus point entry in drawings for hunt permit-tags.

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara McGuire, D-Dist. 8

**Major Actions:** 3 Feb 2015-First read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology (PSMT) Committee, Senate Natural Resources Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 11 Feb 2015-Technical amendment adopted and given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation in Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology (PSMT) Committee 5-0-1 not voting. 16 Feb 2015-Given a Do Pass recommendation in Senate Natural Resources Committee 6-0-1 not voting.

**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:** 26 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 28 Jan 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology Committee 6-0. 3 Feb 2015- Out of Rules. 9 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 29 - 0 -1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 18 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety (MAPS) Committee and House Rules Committee. Thurs, 26 Feb 2015-Hearing scheduled in House MAPS Committee, 10 a.m., HHR 5.

**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:** 26 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Federalism, Mandates and Fiscal Responsibility Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 3 Feb 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Federalism, Mandates, and Fiscal Responsibility Committee. 4 Feb 2015-

**Major Actions:** 26 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Federalism, Mandates and Fiscal Responsibility Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 3 Feb 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Federalism, Mandates and Fiscal Responsibility Committee, 4-1-2 not voting. 16 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 18-11-1 not voting and transmitted to the House.

### **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:** 3 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 11 Feb 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Public Safety, Military, and Technology (PSMT) Committee 4-0-2 not voting. 16 Feb 2015-Out of Senate Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2015-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the House.

## **House Bills**

### **HB 2088- mental health; veteran; homeless courts NOW: magistrates; municipal courts**

**Strike Everything** amendment adopted to update archaic terminology by removing a reference to police magistrates in cities and towns and replace it with *judges of a municipal court*.

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

**Major Actions:** 20 Jan 2015-First read and assigned to House Judiciary and House Rules Committees. 18 Feb 2015- **Strike Everything** amendment adopted in House Judiciary Committee to update archaic terminology by removing a reference to police magistrates in cities and towns and replace it with *judges of a municipal court*.

### **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:** 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and House Rules Committee. Thurs, 22 Jan 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House MAPS Committee, 9-0. 26 Jan 2015-Out of House Rules, placed on Consent Calendar. 29 Jan 2015-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate.

### **HB 2091- veterans; in-state tuition**

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:** 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Government and Higher Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 22 Jan 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House MAPS Committee, 9-0. 5 Feb 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Government and Higher Education Committee, 8-0-1. 12 Feb 2015- Passed House with Emergency Clause 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate.

### **HB 2092- military scholarship special plates**

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

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

**Major Actions: 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure and Rules Committees. Tuesday, 27 Jan 2015-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee 9-0. 9 February 2015-Passed House 52-7-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 17 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to Senate Transportation Committee and Senate Rules Committee.**

### **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: 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committees. 19 Feb 2015-Given a Do Pass recommendation in House MAPS Committee 8-0-1 absent.**

### **HB 2104- lottery game; veteran’s assistance fund**

Would create a special instant lottery game with proceeds from the game to go into a Veterans Educational Assistance Grant Fund administered by the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services to provide educational assistance to “qualified military personnel” or veterans.

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

**Major Actions: 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Commerce and Rules Committees.**

### **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: 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committees. 19 Feb 2015-Given a Do Pass recommendation in House MAPS Committee 9-0.**

### **HB 2165- unlawful sexual conduct; peace officers NOW: veteran education; fund; advisory committee**

Strike Everything amendment adopted in House MAPS Committee would create a \$1-million tax credit to fund a Post 9/11 Veteran Education Relief Fund and a committee appointed by Governor to oversee fund.

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

**Major Actions: 12 Feb 2015 First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2015- Strike Everything amendment in House MAPS adopted changing intent of bill as above. Given a Do Pass Amended recommendation 8-1.**

**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. (Kern Amendment)**

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

**Major Actions: 29 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Appropriations Committee, and Rules Committee. 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. Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) 9-0. 16 Feb 2015-Withdrawn from House Appropriations Committee.**

**HB 2258- auto title loans; military members**

Would require the superintendent of Financial Institutions to enforce P.L. 109-364; 120 STAT. 2083; 10 USC Section 987, regarding loans to military members.

**Original Sponsor: Rep. Debbie McCune Davis, D-Dist. 30; et al.**

**Major Actions: 16 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committee.**

**HB 2274- emergency and military affairs omnibus**

Makes a number of technical corrections in various statutes regarding the Department of Military and Emergency Affairs.

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

**Major Actions: 15 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committees. 19 Feb 2015-Three page Borrelli technical amendment adopted and given a Do Pass recommendation in House MAPS Committee 9-0.**

**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: 27 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary Committee and Rules Committee. 11 Feb 2015-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Judiciary Committee 5-0-1 absent. 19 Feb 2015-Passed House 57-0-3 not voting and transmitted to the Senate.**

**HB 2500- unpaid leave; employee; military family**

Would have employers provide up to two consecutive work weeks of unpaid leave if an employee makes a written request prior to the leave and has: 1) an immediate family member who is honorably discharged from the U. S. Armed Forces and served in a combat zone within the nine months prior to the family member's leave request or, 2) has an immediate family member currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and who served in a combat zone within 90 days prior to the family member's leave request.

member's leave request or, 2) has an immediate family member currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and who served in a combat zone within 90 days prior to the family member's leave request.

**Original Sponsor: Rep. Jonathan Larkin, D-Dist. 30, et al.**

**Major Actions: 5 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Government and Higher Education Committee and House Rules Committee.**

### **HB 2501- women veteran special plates**

Would restrict sale of existing Women Veteran Special Plates to people who can prove they are veterans and/or an immediate family member of a person who has been issued the plate. Currently, monies from the sale of the plates goes into a fund to benefit homeless women veterans.

**Original Sponsor: Rep. Jonathan Larkin, D-Dist. 30, et al.**

**Major Actions: 5 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2015-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MAPS Committee, 8-1.**

### **HB 2575- declaration of disaster; military installations**

Would specifically allow the Governor to declare an emergency for events posing a significant, immediate, and ongoing threat to the operations of a military installation and incur expenses and liabilities in such emergencies.

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

**Major Actions: 3 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee. Thurs, 12 Feb 2015-Hearing scheduled in House MAPS Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 5. 12 Feb 2015-Held in House MAPS Committee.**

### **HB 2584- 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 increasing 3% or more for every year after the first year and require 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 considered for the registry.

A qualifying veteran-owned business is one that is at least 51-percent owned by at least one veteran retiree receiving monthly combat-related special compensation. The qualifying veteran 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.

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

**Major Actions: 3 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Government and Higher Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 19 Feb 2015- Hearing scheduled in House Government and Higher Education Committee. 17 Feb 2015-Removed from House Government and Higher Education Committee agenda.**

### **HB 2631- veteran education; tuition grants; cemeteries**

A "vehicle bill" to be used for amending to become a bill relating to veteran education.

**Original Sponsors: Rep. Jonathan Larkin, D-Dist. 30, et al.**

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**Major Actions:** 11 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Government and House Rules Committee. Thurs, 19 Feb 2015-Hearing scheduled in House MAPS Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 5. 17 Feb 2015-Removed from House MAPS agenda.

### **HCR 2007- Fisher Houses; twenty-fifth anniversary**

A concurrent resolution recognizing and commending the Fisher House Foundation on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Primary Sponsors:** Rep. Mark Finchem, R-Dist. 11, et al; Sen. Judy Burges, R-Dist. 22, et al.

**Major Actions:** 29 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee. 29 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee. 4 Feb 2015-Withdrawn from House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee. **12 Feb 2015-Read on floor of House. Unanimously passed by House and transmitted to the Senate.**

### **HCR 2008- Arizona veterans hall of fame**

A concurrent resolution recognizing the Arizona Veterans' Hall of Fame on its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

**Major Actions:** 29 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee. 29 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee. 4 Feb 2015-Withdrawn from House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS) and Rules Committee.

### **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:** 10 Feb 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), House Government and House Rules Committee.