

ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

52nd Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

Friday, 23 January 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>

Senate Bills

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 Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

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:

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:

House Bills

HB 2088- mental health; veteran; homeless courts

Would permit the presiding judge in each county to establish a homeless/veterans/mental health court in the superior court of each county and, if a county with a population of less than 250,000 people, enter into an intergovernmental agreement with other like counties to create a regional homeless/veterans/mental health court. This would add authority to establish regional homeless courts as well to authority granted last year.

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

Major Actions: 20 Jan 2015-First read and assigned to House Judiciary and House Rules Committees.

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.

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. Thurs, 22 Jan 2015-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MAPS Committee, 9-0.

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.

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-Hearing scheduled in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2 p.m., HHR 1.

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.

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.

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.

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

Major Actions:

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:

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: 22 Jan 2015-First Read and assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee (MAPS), and Rules Committees.

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:

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.

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

Major Actions:

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.

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

Major Actions:

HCR 2007- Fisher Houses; twenty-fifth anniversary

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

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

Major Actions:

HCR 2008- Arizona veterans hall of fame

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

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

Major Actions: