

**ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update**

**The 53rd Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session**

**Adjourned Sine Die**

**at**

**7 p.m.**

**Wednesday, 10 May 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/>

**Bills without out an Emergency Clause will take effect in 90 days.**

**Senate Bills**

**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:** 2 Feb 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 20 March 2017-Passed House 57-0-3 not voting and returned to the Senate. 21 March 2017- Transmitted to the Governor. **24 March 2017- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1203- Arizona water banking authority; report NOW: tax credit; veterans' donation fund**

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. Brenda Barton, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 23 March 2017- SB 1443-veterans' donation fund; tax credit, was assigned to but not heard in House Ways and Means Committee. In the House Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, a Barton "Strike Everything" amendment was adopted changing bill into Veterans' Donation Fund tax credit bill as described above. Vote: 7-0-1 not voting. 17 April 2017-Out of House Rules Committee. 27 April 2017- Given a "Do-Pass Amended" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. **8 May 2017- Failed in House 29-39. 9 May 2017- Motion made and passed to reconsider SB 1203 after failing to pass on Third Read on 8 May 2017. Not brought back to floor for vote. DEAD.**

### **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:** 14 Feb 2017- Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 9 March 2017- Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and returned to the Senate. **14 March 2017- Transmitted to and signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **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:** 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. **26 April 2017-Passed House 54-0-6 not voting and returned to the Senate. 27 April 2017-Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

## **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:** 13 Feb 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee 9-0 with probably floor amendments coming. 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. DEAD. Not heard in 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:** 2 Feb 2017-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 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. 14 March 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House. 23 March 2017- Senate amendment accepted. Final passage in House 55-1-4 not voting. Transmitted to Governor. **24 March 2017- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2158-** tax lien foreclosures; subdivisions; exemption NOW: 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:** 20 Feb 2017- HB 2204 which was the Native American veterans tax settlement bill, was assigned to but not heard in the Senate Finance Committee. In the Senate Committee on Commerce and Public Safety, a “Strike Everything” amendment was adopted changing HB 2158 into the Native American veterans’ tax settlement bill and the bill was given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation 5-2-1 not voting. 11 April 2017-Passed Senate 28-2 and returned to the House for final House action. 24 April 2017- Final vote in House 47-4-8 not voting and 1 vacant and transmitted to the Governor. **28 April 2017- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **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:** 30 Jan 2017-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in House Education Committee, 10-0-1 not voting. 9 Feb 2017-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 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. 23 March 2017- Passed Senate 28-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. **8 May 2017-House concurred with Senate amendment and Final Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Governor. 10 May 2017- Signed by Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **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:** 9 Feb 2017-Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 13 March 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House. 15 March 2017-Transmitted to the Governor. **21 March 2017- Signed by Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

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

Exempts a license, certificate or registration of a member of any National Guard from expiration while the member is serving on federal active duty instead of limiting the exemption to only Arizona National Guard members.

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

**Major Actions:** 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. 27 Feb 2017-Technical amendment adopted and given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 7-0-1 not voting. 22 March 2017- Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. 23 March 2017- Senate technical amendment accepted and final vote in House 56-0-4 not voting and transmitted to the Governor. **24 March 2017- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **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:** 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- 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-Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee 7-1. DEAD. Not heard in Senate Appropriations Committee. .**

**HB 2415- in-state tuition; veterans (Emergency Clause, required 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: 21 Feb 2017-Passed House with Emergency Clause 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 11 April 2017-Passed Senate 30-0 with Emergency Clause and returned to the House for transmittal to the Governor. 13 April 2017-Transmitted to the Governor. 17 April 2017-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED. 18 April 2017- VA informed ADVS that the State of Arizona is now in compliance with 38 U.S.C. 3679(c).**

**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: 16 Feb 2017- First and Second Reading waived and passed House by unanimous vote and transmitted to the Senate. 11 April 2017- First Read in Senate. Second and Third Reading waived and passed Senate by unanimous vote and returned to the House. 13 April 2017- Transmitted to Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**