

**ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update**  
**55th Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session**

**Friday, January 14, 2022**

**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.)***

<b>SB = Senate Bill</b>	<b>HB = House Bill</b>
<b>SCM = Senate Concurrent Memorial</b>	<b>HCM = House Concurrent Memorial</b>
<b>SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution</b>	<b>HCR = House Concurrent Resolution</b>
<b>SR = Senate Resolution</b>	<b>HJR= House Joint Resolution</b>
	<b>HR = House Resolution</b>

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

**Bills Impacting Veterans/Military**

**Senate Bills**

**[SB 1034 veterans; disabilities; property tax exemption](#)**

Conditional on the voter approval of S.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_, exempts, from property tax, the property of veterans with service connected disabilities who are Arizona residents.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations, Finance and Rules Committees.

**[SB 1040 G&F; veterans; hunting; fishing; licenses](#)**

Allows a Veteran of the Armed Forces who has a complimentary license to transfer a permit or tag to another person for the purpose of assisting the Veteran in the taking of wildlife or taking wildlife on behalf of the Veteran as the Veteran's proxy. Additionally, provides reduced license fees for a Veteran who has been a resident of this state for one year or more immediately before applying for the license and a nonresident license for the same fee as a resident license to a veteran or military member who is not a resident of this state.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water and Rules Committees.**

**[SB 1041 appropriation; hyperbaric oxygen therapy; veterans](#)**

Appropriates \$3,640,000 from the State General Fund in FY23 to the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Military Veterans fund.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees.**

**[SB 1059 veterans; surviving spouses; government parking](#)**

Requires each state agency having jurisdiction over street parking or publicly owned and operated parking facility to provide specially designated and marked motor vehicle parking spaces for the exclusive use of Veterans or the Veteran's surviving spouse and outlines requirements for where the parking spaces must be located.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:**

**[SB 1061 army scholarship special plates](#)**

- Establishes the Army Scholarship special plates if by December 31, 2022, a person pays \$32,000 to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for implementation.
- Requires the Director of Department of Veterans' Services to establish a separate subaccount in the Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF) for the deposit of donations received through the purchase of Army Scholarship plates.
- Mandates that monies from the VDF subaccount shall be annually allocated to a non-profit foundation that:
  - Has been in existence for at least twenty years;
  - Has a mission that includes providing college scholarships to sons, daughters of those who have served honorably in the United States Army and spouses of enlisted soldiers on active duty in the United States Army;
  - Envisions increasing its fundraising and visibility to encourage more applicants to apply for scholarships and to provide larger scholarships to an increasing number of deserving applicant to both:
    - Reward Army families for the sacrifices that Army soldiers make every day to serve their nation;
    - Help the spouses and children of Army soldiers become leaders in society; and
  - Awards scholarship monies to:
    - Children of former United States Army members who were killed while serving in the United States Army or who received an honorable discharge or medical discharge.
    - Children of regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty National Guard United States Army members in good standing.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Vince Leach, R-Dist. 11

**Major Actions: First Read and assigned to the Senate Transportation & Technology and Rules Committees.**

### **SB 1066 raffles; nonprofits; length of existence**

Reduces the time that a nonprofit organization must be in existence continuously in this state immediately before conducting a raffle from five years to one year.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. TJ Shope, R-Dist. 8

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Commerce and Rules Committees.**

### **SB 1095 property tax exemptions; statutory conformity**

- Conditional on the voter approval of S.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_, exempts, from property tax, the property of veterans with service or nonservice-connected disabilities who are Arizona residents.
- Inserts the correlating resolution for the conditional enactment
- Updates the exemption amount for widows, widowers, persons with a disability and veterans with a service or nonservice-connected disability to reflect the present-day amount of \$4,117, which is statutorily required to be increased based on the average annual percentage increase in the Gross Domestic Product price deflator.
- Updates the exemption amount for property used in trade or in business or for agricultural purposes to reflect the present-day amount of \$195,878.
- Updates the total assessment limit and the household income limit to reflect the present-day amounts.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. JD Mesnard, R-Dist. 17

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.**

### **SB 1115 in-state student status; veterans**

- Removes the requirement for covered individuals to enroll in a course at a public institution of higher learning within three years of being discharged to receive in-state tuition, in accordance with changes made through the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315 [Sec. 1005]) .
- Include individuals receiving educational assistance under Chapter 35, The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program, in-state tuition, in accordance with changes made through the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-68)
- Makes a clarifying change; and
- Contains an emergency clause.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Education and Rules Committees.**

### **SB 1124 concealed weapons permit; fee; applications**

Prohibits the Director of the Department of Public Safety from charging an initial or renewal application fee for a concealed weapons permit to a person who has been a resident of this state for at least one year before the date of application and who is currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States,

is a Veteran with an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions or is a current or retired peace officer in this state.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 11 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Judiciary, Appropriations and Rules Committees.

### **SB 1129 housing trust fund; transitional housing**

Requires the Department of Housing to annually distribute not more than \$1,000,000 from the Housing Trust Fund to organizations that operate or seek to operate transitional housing for the purpose of acquiring property or renovating existing property. The organizations must meet all of the following:

- Require Residents to sign a contract that requires the resident to be sober, maintain employment and attend mandatory life skills classes and meetings.
- Offer courses that promote life skills.
- Provide a pathway to long-term housing.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 11 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees.

### **SB 1131 empowerment scholarship accounts; qualified students**

Adds a child of a parent who is a Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States to the definition of "Qualified Student" for the purposes of empowerment scholarship eligibility.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 11 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Education and Rules Committees.

### **SB 1140 tribal nations; veterans' services; appropriation**

Appropriates \$2,200,000 and 20 FTE positions from the State General Fund in FY23 to the Department of Veterans' Services to hire Veteran service officers to provide services in rural tribal nations in this state that have communities that are located one hundred miles or more from the nearest U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs service center.

Contains an intent clause stating that the Legislature intends that the monies appropriated for this purpose be collected and identified from revenues collected on Indian reservations in this state.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Theresa Hatathlie, D-Dist. 7

**Major Actions:** 12 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees.

### **SB 1141 Lukachukai veterans' multipurpose complex; appropriation**

Appropriates \$500,000 from the State General Fund in FY23 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to the Navajo Nation for costs associated with planning, designing and constructing the Lukachukai Veterans' multipurpose complex.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Theresa Hatathlie, D-Dist. 7

**Major Actions: 12 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees.**

### **SB 1142 Fort Defiance veterans cemetery; appropriation**

Appropriates \$30,000 from the State General Fund in FY23 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to the Navajo Nation for costs associated with improvements to the Fort Defiance Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Theresa Hatathlie, D-Dist. 7

**Major Actions: 12 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees.**

### **SCR 1009 property tax exemption; veterans; disabilities**

Amends the Arizona Constitution to allow the Legislature to provide property tax exemptions on the primary residence owned by a Veteran, Veteran's spouse if certain criteria is met. Directs the Secretary of the State to submit this proposition to the voters at the next General Election.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance, Appropriations and Rules Committees.**

### **SCR 1011 constitutional property tax exemptions**

Subject to voter approval, amends the Constitution of Arizona to repeal sections relating to property tax exemptions and replaces the sections with one consolidated property tax exemption section and allows the Legislature to exempt the following:

- Property of an educational, charitable or religious association or institution that is not used or held for profit;
- Personal property that is used in a trade or business or for agricultural purposes;
- Cemeteries that are set apart and used to inter deceased human beings;
- The property of a widow or widower who is an Arizona resident;
- Property of an Arizona resident who is at least 18 years-old and has a medically certified total and permanent disability; and
- The property of an honorably discharged veteran who is an Arizona resident with a service or non-service-related disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. JD Mesnard, R-Dist. 17

**Major Actions: 10 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.**

## House Bills

### HB 2062 military; purple heart; VLT exemptions

- Provides a reduced vehicle license tax (VLT) and registration fee for a Veteran for a personally owned vehicle or a Veteran and another party owning a vehicle if the Veteran has a service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Specifies that the percentage of the reduction in the VLT and registration fee must equal the percentage of the service-connected disability rating.
- Stipulates that the fee reduction only applies to one vehicle and only if all of the following apply :
  - The Veteran is a bona fide Purple Heart medal recipient who was awarded the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained in any of the following theaters of operation:
    - World War II beginning in 1939 and ending in 1945;
    - The Korean War beginning in 1950 and ending in 1953;
    - The Vietnam War beginning in 1955 and ending in 1975;
    - The Multinational Intervention in Lebanon beginning in 1982 and ending in 1984;
    - The Invasion of Grenada in 1983;
    - The Invasion of Panama beginning in 1989 and ending in 1990;
    - The First United States Intervention in the Somali Civil War beginning in 1992 and ending in 1995;
    - The Bosnian War beginning in 1992 and ending in 1995;
    - The Kosovo War beginning in 1998 and ending in 1999;
    - The War in Afghanistan beginning in 2001;
    - The Iraq War beginning in 2003 and ending in 2011;
    - The American-led Intervention in Syria beginning in 2014.
    - Operation Desert Shield beginning August 2, 1990 and ending January 17, 1991;
    - Operation Desert Storm beginning January 17, 1991 and ending on February 24, 1991;
    - Operation Desert Sabre beginning February 24, 1991 and ending February 28, 1991.
  - The Veteran was honorably discharged from the U.S. Military.
  - The Veteran has a service-related disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 30 percent and not more than 90 percent.
  - Upon initial registration, the Veteran presents the Veterans' certificate of release or discharge from the U.S. Department of Defense to verify the Veterans military service and an honorable discharge.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Walter Blackman, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:**

### HB 2087 memorial; American Revolution; patriots' plaque

- Authorizes the Department of Administration to provide for the placement in Wesley Bolin Plaza of a Daughters of the American Revolution memorial plaque dedicated to the commemorating the patriots of the American Revolution on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States.
- Specifies that public monies are not authorized for the costs of the memorial and that all fundraising and contracts for artistic design and construction of the memorial are the sole responsibility of the proponents.
- Contains a repeal date of January 1, 2027.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Joanne Osborne, R-Dist. 14

**Major Actions:**

**[HB 2143 ACJC; victim compensation fund; allocation](#)**

Adds the following costs as eligible and allowable in a claim for compensation through the Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund administered by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission:

- Native American ceremony or burial expenses that are considered reasonable and customary funeral expenses; and
- Mental health counseling and care that are provided by a person who is an employee of or contracted with a tribal health care organization, the Indian Health Services, and Veterans Administration provider or an urban Indian health program.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Jennifer Jermaine, D-Dist. 18

**Major Actions:**

**[HB 2147 state agencies; veterans status; inquiry](#)**

Requires all state agencies, boards and commissions or other administrative units of this state to ask every individual at the initial point of service with that individual and to print on each application form the following question: "Have you or a family member ever served in the military?" and to provide a website address and contact information for ADVS and the Be Connected program to individuals who answer in the affirmative. Contains a delayed effective date of January 1, 2023.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29

**Major Actions:**

**[HB 2148 post-traumatic stress injury day](#)**

Establishes June 27 in each year as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day and specifies that Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day is not a legal holiday.

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

**Major Actions:**

**[HB 2149 homeowners' associations; military flags](#)**

Prohibits a planned community or condominium home owners' associations from banning the display of a flag of a branch of the United States military by the unit or home owner on that owner's property.

NOTE: Current statute already allows the display of the United State Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. HB2149 replaces the enumeration with "flag of a branch of the United State military".

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

**Major Actions:**

### **HB 2195 housing trust fund; unclaimed property**

Requires that 55% of proceeds from the sale of abandoned property be deposited into the Housing Trust Fund.

Stipulates that 40% of the proceeds described above must be used exclusively for the development of eligible and viable housing in rural areas.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Powers-Hannley, D-Dist. 9

**Major Actions:**

### **HB 2320 veterans' organization; leased property; classification**

- Classifies property, buildings and fixtures that are leased to a Veterans' organization as [Class Nine property](#).
- Stipulates that if only part of the parcel or improvements is leased to a Veterans' organization and primarily used or held for Veterans' organization operations, only the portion so leased qualifies as Class Nine property.
- Requires the Veterans' organization to annually with the Assessor an affidavit that it:
  - Continues to use or hold the property primarily for the Veterans' organization operations; and
  - Is the sole economic beneficiary of the classification of the property as Class Nine.
- Provides a property tax exemption for property, buildings and fixtures that are owned by a Veterans' organization, that are leased to a Veterans' organization and that are primarily used for Veterans' organization operations.
- Defines "Veterans' organizations" as a United States Veterans' Organization that qualifies as a charitable organization and that is recognized under 501c3 or 501c19 of the internal revenue code.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. John Kavanagh, R-Dist. 23

**Major Actions:**

### **HB 2354 tuition; family; post-traumatic stress; suicide**

- Requires the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and Community College District (District), after verification by the Arizona Peace Officers memorial Board, the Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee or the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, to provide tuition waiver scholarships to a child or spouse of a person who meets the following criteria:
  - The person:
    - Was a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces or serving or previously served as a peace officer, firefighter or member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the person's death;
      - It is not a requirement that the person was employed as a peace officer or firefighter or was serving on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the person's death.
    - Was a resident of this state at the time of the person's death;
    - Suffered a post-traumatic stress (PTS) injury in the line of duty; and
    - Died by suicide.
- Specifies that a person meets the above requirements on the effective date of this Act is eligible to receive a tuition waiver scholarship as prescribed regardless of the date on which the eligible person's parent or spouse suffered the PTS injury and died by suicide.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Leo Biasiucci, R-Dist. 5

**Major Actions:**



### **HB 2360 appropriation; military; discharge; tribal ceremonies**

Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY23 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to Indian tribes located in this state to conduct tribal ceremonies for tribal members who are discharged from the military.

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Myron Tsosie, D-Dist. 7

#### **Major Actions**

### **HB 2454 statutory conformity; property tax exemptions**

- Conditional upon voter approval at the next General Election, exempts, from property tax, the property of veterans with service or nonservice-connected disabilities who are Arizona residents.
- Inserts the correlating resolution for the conditional enactment
- Updates the exemption amount for widows, widowers, persons with a disability and veterans with a service or nonservice-connected disability to reflect the present-day amount of \$4,200, which is statutorily required to be increased based on the average annual percentage increase in the Gross Domestic Product price deflator.
- Updates the exemption amount for property used in trade or in business or for agricultural purposes to reflect the present-day amount of \$220,000.
- Updates the total assessment limit and the household income limit to reflect the present-day amounts.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Neal Carter, R-Dist. 8

#### **Major Actions:**

### **HB 2468 veteran housing; unclaimed property locators**

Establishes the Veteran Housing Trust Fund within the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System consisting of proceeds from the sale of abandoned property in the amount of \$1,000,000 each fiscal year and specifies that monies from the fund must be used solely for housing projects and rental assistance for homeless Veterans.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Frank P. Carroll, R-Dist. 22

#### **Major Actions:**

### **HB 2496 student activity fees; conscience exemption**

- Requires the Arizona Board of Regents to adopt rules to govern the Board's tuition and academic fee setting process that provide an exemption from the requirement to pay student activity fees if the payment of the student activity fees would violate the student's conscience or if the student meets the following criteria:
  - A student who is a Veteran and who recently returned from service;
  - A student who was recently married or who recently became a parent who does not participate in student activities;
  - A student who objects to the student activity fees on religious or moral grounds;
  - A student who demonstrates financial hardship; or
  - A student who is on campus only part time.

- Defines “student activity fees” as any fee that is charge to students by a public university and that is used to support and facilitate the expression and activities of students or student organizations.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Representative Jake Hoffman, R-Dist. 12

**Major Actions:**

**[HR Fisher house; service members; supporting](#)**

Resolves that the Members of the Legislature support the construction and operation of a Fisher House near the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Phoenix.

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

**Major Actions:**

**Bills that Impact the ADVS Administratively**

**Senate Bills**

**[SB 1096 noncustodial federal monies; appropriation](#)**

- Beginning January 1, 2023, authorizes the Legislature to appropriate noncustodial federal monies. Defines noncustodial federal monies as federal monies that meet one of the following criteria:
  - Designated by the federal government as a block grant monies;
  - Designated by the federal government as general revenue sharing monies;
  - Provides the state with broad authority to make spending decisions to develop, implement or operate a program or service; or
  - Considered essential to meet total spending obligations of a federally matched program.
- Requires a budget unit that receives noncustodial federal monies to account for the monies in separate accounts or funds as necessary to meeting accounting, budgeting and auditing requirements.
- Specifies if the Legislature does not appropriate for a specific fund, grant program or block of noncustodial federal monies, the authorized budget unit must administer and spend the monies according to federal and state law.
- Requires the Legislature to specify, in each noncustodial federal monies appropriation, the purposes the monies are to be used.
- Contains a delayed effective date of January 1, 2023.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. JD Mesnard, R-Dist. 17

**Major Actions:**

**[SB 1127 state agencies; payments; cryptocurrency](#)**

Allows a state agency to enter into an agreement with a cryptocurrency issuer to provide a method to accept cryptocurrency as a payment method of fines, civil penalties or other penalties, rent, rates, taxes, fees, charges, revenue, financial obligations and special assessments to pay any amount due to that agency or this state.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Wendy Rogers, R-Dist. 6

**Major Actions:** 11 Jan 2022- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance, Government, and Rules Committee.

## **House Bills**