

Recommendation Recap

Compiled by the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission

Action Item #	Action Item	Fiscal Impact?	Status	Open/Close
VTF1	Establish a Veterans Research Council	negligible	Executive Order 2007-08/Final Report Jan 2008	Closed 10/
VTF2	Finance a state vet home to be built in Tucson	\$10 million	Funded by Legislature- Complete ECD June 2011, operational Sept. 2011	Closed 10/
VTF3	Establish 40 full-time VBCs	\$1.8 million	Partially Funded (currently 37)- On-going activity for AZDVS-	Closed 10/
VTF4	Establish 15 clerical assist positions for VBCs	\$675K	Partially Funded in 2007	Closed 10/
VTF5	Replenish the State Vet Cemetery fund, which is used to fund construction of new cemeteries	\$183K	TBD	Open
VTF6	Properly fund state vet cemetery	\$125K/year	Not Funded	Open
VTF7	Fund ten one-stop veterans expos statewide	\$250K/year	Some funding - ADVS decision to change approach	Closed 10/
VTF8	Modify the air conditioning system at the State Vet Home	Unknown	Completed in 2007 On going activity	Closed 10/
VTF9	Expand tuition waiver scholarships to active duty & reservists with Purple Hearts	N/A	Duplicates G&R recommendation #4.	Closed 11/
VTF10	Equalize military preference points for vets seeking public employment (disbled & non-disabled)	N/A	See DV recommendation #3 below.	Open
VTF11	Establish a patriotic specialty plate (Freedom plate)	\$3000 for setup	New "Freedom" license plate established by A.R.S. 28-2428 as amended by the Arizona Legislature.	Closed 10/
Homeless Veterans (HV)				
VCR(HV)1	Establish a Low-Income Housing Tax credit for permanent housing for veterans	Impact on Revenues	Accomplished - AZ Dept. of Housing established a veteran preference in the 2010 LIHTC Program and awarded Madison Point (60-unit affordable housing development) for veteran families.	Closed 10/
VCR(HV)2	Give state procurement preferences when providing transitional housing for homeless vets.	Negligible	Integrated inot the AZ plan to prevent and end homelessness. Ongoing AZDVS operations.	Closed 10/
Women Veterans (WV)				
VCR(WV)1	Identify Women vets & continue collecting info on veterans registry	Ongoing	The agency determined that a registry was too time-intensive to create and maintain. The effort was abandoned in 2008.	Closed 10/
VCR(WV)2	Prepare & distribute to women vets an info packet which includes contacts specific to women vets (for women's health issues & employment transition)	Ongoing	The agency has discussed a partnership with the Women's Army Corps regarding a more comprehensive directory of services.	Open

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VCR(WV)3	Appoint women vet advocates with the Gov's Office of Children, Youth & Families; the AZ Dept. of Housing; the AZ Dept. of Health Services; and the AZ Dept. of Economic Security	None	There is no designation at any of these agencies.	Open
Rural Veterans (RV)				
VCR(RV)1	Provide transportation assistance to help rural vets get to medical appointments		Not accomplished -budget issue. Some VDF help to tribes.	Open
VCR(RV)2	Deploy VBCs to more rural parts of the state.		Accomplished in principal - On-going activity	Closed 11/
Disabled Veterans (DV)				
VCR(DV)1	Deploy VBCs to more rural parts of the state and employ mobile offices to travel to claimants.		See VTF #3 above. The mobile office concept was abandoned.	Closed 11/
VCR(DV)2	Have property tax exemption match the percentage of disability awarded by the VA.	Impact on Revenues	HCR 2002 introduced during 48 th Legislature, 2d Reg Session in 2008 was held in House Rules Committee and therefore failed.	Open
VCR(DV)3	Give preference to service-connected disabled vets with small businesses (similar to federal set asides).	Negligible	HB 2135 died in House, 49 th Legislature, 1 st Reg Session 2009.	Open
Guard and Reserve (G&R)				
VCR(G&R)1	Modify MFRF eligibility to allow those with AZ as their home of record can apply	None	MFRF amended by SB 1176 in 2009 and by HB 2198 in 2010.	Closed 11/
VCR(G&R)2	Modify ARS 26-167, which prohibits employment discrimination against members of the Arizona National Guard, to protect reservists.	None	HB2539 approved 49th Legislature, 2d Regular Session in 2010.	Closed 11/
VCR(G&R)3	Modify ARS 26-168, which prohibits employment discrimination against members of the Arizona National Guard, to protect reservists.	None	HB2539 implemented. Approved 49th Legislature, 2d Regular Session in 2010.	Closed 11/
VCR(G&R)4	Modify ARS 15-1808 (provides tuition waivers for AZ National Guard who received Purple Hearts) to include all AZ service members who received the Purple Heart.	Impact on public school revenues	HB 2350 implemented in 2nd regular session of 49th legislature for Purple Heart recipients with 50% and higher disability.	Closed 11/

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VCR(G&R)5	Modify ARS 43-1079.01 and 43-1167.01, allow tax credits of \$1000 to employers of deployed members of the Arizona National Guard, to match benefit to employers of deployed reservists.	Decreases tax revenue	TBD	Open
Miscellaneous recommendations (MR)				
VCR(MR)1	Develop & distribute a comprehensive directory of organizations offering services to vets	No admin staff available	Veteran's Information Directory 2009	Closed 11/
VCR(MR)2	Substantially increase state income tax exemption of military retiree pay.	Decreases tax revenue	Initial effort failed due to budget limitaions	Open
VCR(MR)3	Limited gambling licenses for veteran's service organizations to permit "pull tab" games.	Anticipated opposition from Gaming tribes	HB 2195, 49 th Legislature, 2d Regular Session created a special "pull tab" game under AZ Lottery for charitable veterans' service organizations and fraternal organizations. The Lottery Director estimates it will bring in \$12-million a year to such organizations.	Closed 11/
VTF = Recommendations from the Veterans Task Force and VRC = Recommendations from the Veterans Research Council				