



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MAY 2025

JULIA R. GUSSE, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

AZDVS Led Legislative Bill



Veterans Donation Fund Bill Revision – SB1704

- Legislative Bill Proposal; original language to allow 15% of Veteran Donation Fund for AZDVS state homes and an additional budget of not to exceed \$150,000 for two FTE's.
- SB1704 "*Veterans' donations fund, annual transfer*" was introduced on 02/03/2025 sponsored by Senator Gowan.
- Bill has crossed over to the House and currently pending a negotiated amendment removing one FTE.

SB1704 Continued

- ▶ Fact Sheet Available for any inquiries
- ▶ Senate Appropriations Committee approved unanimously on 02-18-2025.
- ▶ House Federalism, Military Affairs & Elections approved unanimously on 03-12-2024.
- ▶ House Appropriations approved unanimously on 3-19-2025. Pending a meeting between Senator Gowan and Appropriations Chair for an amendment removing 1 FTE.

Education Related Bills

► SB1021 **ROTC cadets; in-state student status**



SUMMARY: Classifies anyone contracted as a cadet that is participating in a Reserve Officer Training Corp Program as an “In-State Student.”

At Arizona State University, the total cost is \$33,270 for in-state students and \$53,412 for out-of-state students.

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025

HB2030 Impersonation; veteran; armed forces NOW; STRIKE EVERYTHING SB1424



► Introduced by Representative Blackman

Summary: Establishes the criminal classification of impersonating a veteran, which a person commits by knowingly misrepresenting themselves to be a veteran and engaging in specified acts with intent to obtain money, property or any other tangible benefit.

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025

Tax/Financial Bills

► SB1122 Property tax exemptions; inflation adjustment

Requires the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADR) to calculate by December 31 of each year the total allowable exemption amount based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the GDP price deflator in the two most recent complete state fiscal years, and, starting in 2025, based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the “Federal House Price Index” (defined) for the two most recent complete fiscal years, and the total income limits amount to qualify for an exemption, as defined by law, to be based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the GDP price deflator in the two most recent complete state fiscal years.

Signed by Governor Hobbs on 3/31/2025



Tax/Financial

► HB2009 Vehicle license tax; exemption; military

Summary: Requires an individual to have valid orders and to be within 30 days of deployment to be able to register a vehicle for one year without payment of registration fees and the vehicle license tax. Permits an individual who paid registration fees or vehicle license taxes who qualifies under this provision to apply for a refund of all monies submitted. Makes the changes retroactive to six months before the effective date of this Act.

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025



AZ Dept of Emergency & Military Affairs

► **SB1009; Appropriations; nuclear emergency management fund**

Summary: Appropriates \$2.617 million from the General Fund in FY 2025-2026 and \$2.711 from the Nuclear Emergency Management Fund in 2026-2027 for use by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (ADEM) and the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA.) Outlines how the funds shall be used, including funding 8 full-time positions in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 at the ADEM, to develop emergency response plans by the ADA, and for the appropriate agencies and department in Maricopa County and the City of Buckeye to develop and manage Emergency Response plans. Stipulates that the above mentioned sums be assessed against any consortium of public service or municipal corporations engaged in constructing or operating a commercial nuclear generating state in Arizona. Contains Emergency Clause.

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025

Veterans Affairs Police



► SB1163; Veterans Emergency Admission; transport

Summary: Permits a written application for emergency admission to be made to an evaluation agency telephonically if made by a peace officer or a police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Stipulates that a copy of the application that contains the applicant's original signature is acceptable, and does not have to be notarized, and may be submitted as the written application, if taken by a police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Permits an admitting officer based on a review of the application and a conversation with the police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to advise that officer that sufficient grounds exist to take the person into custody and to transport the person to the evaluation agency. Requires that if such advice is given, a peace officer or the officer from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall apprehend and transport the person to the evaluation agency. Requires a peace officer or the police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to take reasonable precautions to safeguard the premises and the property on the premises where the applicant is apprehended, and stipulates that either who makes a good faith effort to follow the requirements of this legislation is not subject to civil liability. Contains an emergency clause.

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025

Housing/Homeless Veterans Bills



► STRIKER BILL SB1151

NOW; Housing grant program, veterans; fund

Establishes the Housing Grant Program to construct military transitional, veteran, affordable and homeless housing in Arizona to be administered by the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH). Outlines how grants are to be awarded and the entities that qualify to receive grants. Requires federal monies in the program be designated for military transitional housing by the US federal government and mandates preference be given to veteran-owned and operated organizations for the management of the program and program funds. Details how fund monies are to be spent and requires that funds be allocated for a comprehensive care facility that provides supportive housing services in the facility and via on-site outpatient medical care and behavioral health services for military members who are transitioning into civilian life.

Pending; last update was on 04/02/2025 Passed House Majority/Minority Caucus

Housing/Homeless Veterans Bills Continued

<u>HB2435</u>	homelessness; data; performance audit (moved to Senate 3/19)	Data collected may report on Veterans experiencing homelessness and drug abuse due to their military experiences. This data may cause further homelessness amongst a small population of veterans.
<u>HB2437</u>	drug-free homeless zones (Failed on 4/29/25 Senate Third)	1. introduces penalties for employees 2. "DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONE" will continue the cycle of homelessness amongst veterans attempting to refrain from drug use. Housing should take priority and these policies will further criminalize homelessness amongst veterans.
<u>HB2803</u>	mixed hoteling; signage; requirements (Moved to the Senate 3/25/25)	Veterans Utilize HUD-VASH Vouchers, bridging federal dollars and these policies may jeopardize this vital funding source for homeless veterans.

Justice Involved/Veterans Courts Bills



► SB1312 Coordinated reentry; grants; appropriation

An Act amending section 11-392, Arizona Revised Statutes; appropriating monies; relating to coordinated reentry planning services programs.

Summary: Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the Consumer Restitution Subaccount of the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund to the Arizona Attorney General to distribute to grants to counties pursuant to state law, to establish or continue a Coordinated Reentry Planning Services Program (Program). Requires any county that receives funds to create and maintain the Program to submit a report on the Program status, with associated data, based on specific criteria listed in this legislation. Includes a list of the recipients of the report. Stipulates that grants received are on a two year cycle. Prohibits the Arizona Attorney General from allocating more than \$3,000,000 to an individual grant recipient over the two year grant cycle and requires the same to make available up to \$2,000,000 over the two year grant cycle for a statewide database to accommodate additional counties participating in the Program. Defines Program scope and prohibits Maricopa and Pima counties from receiving grants.

Pending; last update was on 03/26/25 Passed House Appropriations

National Guard



► SB1495 **National Guard; active duty; requirements**

Summary: The National Guard of Arizona is prohibited from being released from Arizona into “active duty combat” (defined) unless the U.S. Congress has passed an official declaration of war or has taken an official action pursuant to the U.S. Constitution to explicitly call forth the National Guard of Arizona for the enumerated purposes of executing the laws of the union, repelling an invasion or suppressing an insurrection.

Pending; Last Update -Passed House Majority/Minority Caucus on 04/08/2025

Tax/Financial Bills

- ▶ SB1155 Income tax; subtraction; uniformed services
(last update; WM Committee Passed 3/26/25)
- ▶ HB2036 ASRS; temporary personnel service
- ▶ HB2077 ASRS; long-term disability
(last update; Senate Rep/Dem Caucus on 3/18/25)
- ▶ HB2672 Property tax; exemption; veterans; disabilities
(last update; Senate Finance Committee Passed 3/17/25)
- ▶ HCR2023 House Concurrent Resolution Property Tax Combat Veterans
(last update; Senate Finance Committee Passed 3/17/25)



Programs/Mental Health Bills

- ▶ SB1555 Psilocybin services; regulation; licensure

NOW: Approved medication; rescheduling; controlled substance

- ▶ HB2871; Appropriation; ibogaine; clinical research study

Summary: Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the Arizona State General Fund in FY 2025-2026 to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to award a grant to conduct a certified clinical research study on the use of ibogaine for the treatment of neurological diseases, including traumatic brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Outlines the eligibility criteria to receive a grant. The appropriation is exempt from lapsing of appropriations provisions.

- ▶ HB2320 Appropriation; veterans' services; mental health (crossed over and approved by Senate Appropriations on 4/01/25)

Miscellaneous Bills

- ▶ **HCR2010 (House Concurrent Resolution) Gold Star Families**

(last update; 3/18 Senate Rep/Dem Caucus)



- ▶ **HB2933 STRIKER BILL – Appropriation; nonprofit veterans organization**

(last update; moved to Senate Appropriations on 03/25/25)

Summary: Appropriates \$500,000 from the Arizona State General Fund in FY 2025-2026 to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services to award grants pursuant to state law to nonprofit veterans organizations that are physically located in counties with a population of less than 500,000 persons and that assist veteran in securing housing or employment benefits. Exempts the appropriation from lapsing of appropriations provisions through June 30, 2027.

- ▶ **HB2133 Nurses provisional licensure, waives fees for veterans/spouses of active duty**

(last update; Passed Senate Regulatory Affairs and Govt Efficiency on 3/12/25)

VETOED BILLS

► HB2004; Voter registration cards; mailing limitation

Summary: Prohibits the county recorders from providing an initial or updated voter registration card to a person whose mailing address is outside the state of Arizona, except for absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters as defined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and persons who are residents of Arizona and who are not served by a United States Post Office.

Vetoed by Governor Hobbs on 04-15-2025