

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Legislation Update

54th Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

Friday, 25 January 2019

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/>

Bills Impacting Veterans/Military

Senate Bills

[SB 1001- highway safety fee; repeal; VLT](#)

Repeals the annual highway safety fee for registered vehicles to fund highway patrol (currently set at \$32).

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Ugenti-Rita, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees. 23 Jan 2019- Received a "Do Pass as Amended" from the Senate Appropriations Committee with a vote of 9-0-0-0. The adopted Ugenti-Rita amendment adds a Legislative Intent clause citing that it is the intent of the Legislature that the highway patrol be fully funded by the State General Fund. **Scheduled for Rules Committee: 28 Jan 2019.**

[SB 1034- tax subtraction; uniformed services pay](#)

Makes technical corrections.

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Brophy-McGee, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.

[SB 1098 housing assistance pilot program; appropriation](#)

Establishes the Housing Assistance Pilot program to provide grants to assist individuals who are transitioning off of public assistance in securing housing. Creates a House Assistance advisory board consisting of the Director or Director's designee from the following departments:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
- Department of Corrections
- Arizona Department of Housing
- Department of Economic Security

The advisory board is tasked with establishing criteria for housing assistance grants, establishing the application process and awarding housing assistance grants to qualified applicants.

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15; Senator Lela Alston, D-24 et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services, Appropriations and Rules Committees

[SB 1099 patriotic youth groups; school access](#)

Authorizes the principal of a public school, during the first quarter of each academic school year, to allow representatives from any youth group listed under federal law as a patriotic society to address students for up to ten minutes during regular school hours on how the youth group as a patriotic society supports education interests and civic involvement.

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15; Senator Lela Alston, D-Dist 24; Senator Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist 5; et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to Senate Education and Rules Committees.

[SB 1172 family caregivers; income tax credit](#)

Creates, beginning in Tax Year (TY) 2019 and ending before TY 2023, an individual income tax credit (tax credit) for the care and support of a qualifying family member. Outlines various tax credit limitations and eligibility criteria.

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15; Senator Kate Brophy McGee, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to Senate Finance and Rules Committees.

House Bills

[HB 2011- veterans; increased income tax subtraction](#)

Increases the allowable state income tax subtraction for retainer and retirement benefit, annuity and pension pay from the Uniformed Services of the United States from \$3500 to \$10,000 over the next 3 years.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14; Senator Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions:

HB 2019- highway safety fee; repeal; VLT

Repeals the annual highway safety fee for registered vehicles to fund highway patrol (currently set at \$32).

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions:

HB 2020- parks; veterans; military personnel; access

Grants all veterans and active duty military personnel entrance to state parks free of charge on presentation of the person's military identification.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions:

HB 2030- military plates; disability; fee exemption

Eliminates special plate fees for the following special plates if the plate is combined with an international symbol of access special plate and the person who applies for the plate has a disability that is the result of the veteran's military service:

- Veteran
- Former prisoner of war
- Purple Heart medal recipient
- Pearl Harbor survivor

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the House Transportation and Military & Veterans Affairs and Rules Committees. **Scheduled for House Transportation Committee: 30 Jan 2019.**

HB 2046- military funerals; honor guard; compensation

Compensates a member of a veterans' service organization who serves in an honor guard detail for any deceased person who is eligible for military funeral honors under federal law at a rate of \$50 per day, except that a bugler will be compensated at \$25 per day.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. David Cook, R-Dist. 8; Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions:

[HB 2075 electronic prescribing; exceptions; deadlines](#)

Among other things, exempts from electronic prescribing requirements, a prescription order for a Schedule II controlled substance that is an opioid when the order indicates that the medical practitioner provided care for the patient in a Veterans Administration Facility, a health facility on a military base, an Indian health services hospital or other Indian health services facility, or a tribal-owned clinic.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Regina Cobb, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 15 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the House Health & Human Services and Rules Committees. 24 Jan 2019- Received a “Do Pass as Amended” from the House Health & Human Services Committee with a vote of 9-0-0.

[HB 2082- junior reserve officer training; CTE](#)

Classifies a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program offered by a school district, charter school, or career technical education (CTE) district as a CTE course or program. Appropriates \$500,000 from the state general fund to the Department of Education (ADE) for distribution on a prorated per pupil basis to CTE and school districts that offer JROTC programs approved by the CTE Division of ADE and ADE respectively.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Walter Blackman, R-Dist. 6; Rep. Frank Carroll, R-Dist. 22; Rep. Alma Hernandez, D-Dist. 3; Rep. Aaron Lieberman, D-Dist. 28

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to the House Military & Veteran Affairs, Education and Rules Committees.

[HB 2093 appropriation; veterans’ services; benefits counselors](#)

Appropriates \$1.2 million from the State General Fund, in addition to any other appropriations made in FY 2020, to the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services to hire additional benefits counselors.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29; Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23; Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Dist. 1; Rep. David Cook, R-Dist. 8; et al.

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to the House Military & Veteran Affairs, Appropriations and Rules Committees.

[HB 2105 procurement; veterans; Arizona bidders; preference](#)

Requires a purchasing agency, when awarding a contract to the lowest bidder, to grant preference to a veteran-owned business or an Arizona bidder, in that order, over a nonresident bidder if there are two or more low, responsive offers from the responsible bidders that are identical in price.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Diego Espinoza, D-Dist. 19; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29; et al.

Major Actions:

[HB 2142 driver license fees; homeless exemption](#)

[Laws 2018, Chapter 271](#) exempted *veterans* who have no address or whose address is that of a homeless shelter from the fees associated with receiving a driver license or nonoperating identification license. HB2142 expands the fee exemption to any *person* whose address is that of a homeless shelter from the fees associated with receiving a driver license or nonoperating identification license.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Reginald Bolding, D-Dist. 27; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29; Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Dist. 1; Rep. Jennifer Longdon, D-Dist. 24

Major Actions:

[HB 2309 technical correction; military affairs](#)

Makes technical corrections pertaining to the state militia.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Michelle Udall, R-Dist. 25

Major Actions:

[HB 2321 public service scholarship fund](#)

Establishes the John McCain Public Service Scholarship fund to be used to provide scholarships to students who meet the following requirements:

- Complete a term of service in a national service program that is designed to improve lives and foster civic engagement and that is supported by the federal government;
- Subsequently receive a federal postservice education award.
- Use the federal postservice education award to attend an educational institution or program in this state that is eligible under the terms of the federal postservice education award.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Aaron Liberman, D-Dist. 28; Rep. Leo Baisiucci, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Walter Blackman, R-Dist. 6; Rep. Reginald Bolding, D-Dist. 27; et al.

Major Actions:

[HB 2339 appropriation; affordable housing](#)

Appropriates \$25,000,000 from the State General Fund to the Housing Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Athena Salman, D-Dist. 26; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29; Rep. Reginald Bolding, D-Dist. 27; Rep. Kelli Butler, D-Dist. 28; et al.

Major Actions:

[HB 2370 technical correction; military; special plates](#)

Makes technical corrections pertaining to *military support* special plates.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Ben Toma, R-Dist. 22

Major Actions:

[HB 2440- highway safety fee; repeal](#)

Repeals the annual highway safety fee for registered vehicles to fund highway patrol (currently set at \$32).

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions:

[HB 2446 military services special plates](#)

Establishes the *military services* special license plates. Of the \$25 fee for the plate, \$17 is an annual donation and must be deposited in the Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF) subaccount to be used for services that benefit U.S. Navy veterans or immediate family members of U.S. Navy veterans in this state.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions:

[HB 2458 consumer credit lending; military members](#)

Provides consumer credit lending protection for those in this state who are a member of the armed forces on call of active duty for more than thirty days, an active guard and reserve duty, and a veteran who was discharged from the armed forces within the prior 12 months.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Kelli Butler, D-Dist. 28; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29

Major Actions:

[HB 2459 DFI; examination; military lending act](#)

Requires the Superintendent of Financial Institutions to examine or caused to be examined, consumer lenders and premium finance companies at their discretion to ensure compliance with the federal Military Lending Act.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Kelli Butler, D-Dist 28; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29

Major Actions:

[HB 2488 veteran suicides; annual report](#)

Requires the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), beginning January 1, 2020, to annually compile a report on veteran suicides in this state that includes the following information:

- The number of veterans who died by suicide or accidental death in the preceding 5 years;
- The prevalence of medications or illegal substance in each veteran who died by suicide;
- The number of instances in which veterans who died by suicide were taking multiple prescriptions

Prescribes additional information to be included in the initial report and requires DHS to submit the report annually to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Arizona Department of Veterans' services. Additionally, HB2488 requires that a death certificate must indicate whether or not the person was a veteran.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions:

[HB 2499 appropriation; Navajo veterans housing assistance](#)

Appropriates \$400,000 from the State General Fund in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to the Department of Economic Security to distribute to the Navajo Nation for costs associated with the Navajo Veterans Housing Assistance Program administered by the Navajo Nation.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Myron Tsosie, D-Dist. 7; Rep. Mitzi Epstein, D-Dist. 18; Rep. Alma Hernandez, D-Dist. 3; Rep. Daniel Hernandez

Major Actions:

[HCM 2001 deported veterans; medical treatment](#)

Urges the United States Congress to enact legislation providing medical treatment and other benefits for all veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including those who have been deported.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Diego Espinoza

Major Actions:

[Bills that Impact the Department Administratively](#)

Senate Bills

[SB 1041-technical correction; veterans; conservatorship](#)

Makes technical corrections

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Kate Brophy-McGee, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the Senate Rules Committee.

House Bills

[HB 2131 state agencies; citizen portal; access](#)

Requires each state agency that collects personal information from any person to establish a citizen portal that is a secure online website and that allows a person to access the person's personal information and to correct any errors in the information.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Dist. 6

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the House Technology Committee.
Scheduled for a hearing in the House Technology Committee: 6 Feb 2019.

[HB 2144 technical correction; private funds; disposition](#)

Makes technical corrections.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Regina Cobb, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions:

[HB 2257 civil liability; gun-free zones](#)

Holds an organization or entity or an agency, commission, board or political subdivision of this state that establishes a gun-free zone liable for any damages claimed by a person who was harmed by criminal conduct in the gun-free zone if a reasonable person would believe that possession of a firearm could have helped the person defend against the criminal conduct.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Dist. 6

Major Actions:

[HB2487 state veterans' homes](#)

Makes technical updates in statutory language regarding the Arizona State Veteran Homes.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Jay Lawrence, R-Dist. 23

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2019- First Read and assigned to the House Military & Veterans Affairs and Rules Committees.