

ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update
54th Arizona Legislature, Second Regular Session

Friday, January 17, 2020

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	HB = House Bill
SCM = Senate Concurrent Memorial	HCM = House Concurrent Memorial
SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution	HCR = House Concurrent Resolution
SR = Senate 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 1003 auto title loans; clear title](#)

Prohibits a seller, bailor, lender or lessor from entering into a secondary motor vehicle finance transaction unless the borrower holds a clear title to the motor vehicle that the borrower uses to secure the loan.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. David Farnsworth, R-Dist. 16

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.

[SB 1004 interest rates; auto title loans](#)

Places a cap on a secondary motor vehicle finance contract at an annual interest rate between 24% and 36%, depending on the amount borrowed.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. David Farnsworth, R-Dist. 16

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.

SB 1005 auto title loans; interest rate

Places a cap on a secondary motor vehicle finance contract at an annual interest rate of 36%.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. David Farnsworth, R-Dist. 16

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees.

SB 1018 bingo; licenses; taxes

Eliminates the three classes of bingo licenses currently in use, replacing them with a single license for all bingo operations and raises the number days per week that a licensed operation can host bingo from five to seven.

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

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees. **Scheduled to be heard in Senate Finance Committee 22 Jan 2020.**

SB 1022 technical correction; veterans; conservatorship

Makes technical corrections.

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

Major Actions:

SB1044 veterans' services; benefits counselors appropriation

Appropriates \$133,900 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to hire two additional veteran benefits counselors to be located in Apache, Coconino or Navajo County.

Adopted Senate Transportation and Public Safety Amendment

Increases the appropriation from \$133,900 to \$183,400 in FY21 to hire two additional veteran benefits counselors located in Apache, Coconino or Navajo County. Additionally, appropriates \$183,400 in FY22 and FY23 for hiring of two additional veteran benefits counselors in each respective fiscal year to be located across the state.

Proposed Senate Appropriations Amendment

Intended to replace the amendment adopted by the Transportation and Public Safety Amendment, the Appropriations amendment would increase the appropriation from \$133,900 to \$474,200 for the hiring of 6 additional benefits counselors. At least two of the additional benefits counselors must be located in Apache, Coconino or Navajo County.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. David Livingston, R-Dist. 22

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations, Transportation & Public Safety and Rules Committees. 15 Jan 2020- Received a "Do Pas as

Amended” from the Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee with a vote of 8-0-0-0. Scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on 21 Jan 2020.

SB1112 veterans’ home facility; Mohave county

Appropriates \$25,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY2021 to the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services (ADVS) to construct and establish a veterans’ home facility in Mohave county. The appropriation is intended to be this state’s share of the costs and is not subject to expenditure for any purpose unless ADVS has irrevocable commitments from the United States government to fund at least 65% of the total costs.

Proposed Appropriations Amendment

Decreases the appropriation from \$25,000,000 to \$19,000,000.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 22

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- - First Read and assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Rules Committees. Scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on 21 Jan 2020.

SB 1115 veterans overseas conflicts plates

Establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts special plates if by December 31, 2020, a person pays \$32,000 to the Arizona Department of Transportation for implementation. Additionally, establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Special Plates Fund consisting of donations from the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Special Plates. Monies from the fund shall be annually allocated to a Veterans of Foreign Wars entity located in this state, for the purposes of training and paying persons throughout this state where needed to process veterans’ claims for service-connected disabilities and illnesses.

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

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020 - First Read and assigned to the Senate Transportation & Public Safety and Rules Committees.

House Bills

HB 2035 appropriation; veterans services; benefits counselors

Appropriates \$1.2 million from the State General Fund, in addition to any other appropriations made in FY21, to the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services to hire additional benefits counselors.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2086 tuition waiver; military; veterans; family

Provides tuition waivers to spouses and dependents of veterans, National Guard members, former National Guard members and active military who meet certain criteria as well as veterans with a disability rating of 70% or higher. Certain stipulations apply that are outlined in the bill.

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

Major Actions:

[HB 2090 wind energy; siting](#)

Beginning on October 1, 2020, prohibits the construction or operation of a proposed individual wind turbine or any other individual structure that requires a federal aviation administration form 7460-1 and that is part of a wind energy facility from encroaching on or otherwise having a significant adverse impact on the mission, training or operations of any military installation or branch of military as determined by the military aviation and installation assurance siting clearinghouse and the federal aviation administration.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Finchem, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- First Read and Assigned to the House Natural Resources Energy & Water and Rules Committees. Scheduled to be heard in House Natural Resources Energy & Water Committee on 21 Jan 2020.

[HB 2096 security guard registration; discharged veterans](#)

Allows for a veteran who is honorably discharged from the United States military to receive a 30-day security guard registration certificate or a 30 day armed security guard registration certificate before the required background screenings for the applicant are complete.

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

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020 - First Read and assigned to the House Military & Veterans Affairs and Rules Committees.

[HB2135 veteran suicides; annual report](#)

Adds that the report on veteran suicides in this state provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services must include utilization and encounter data for a nonprofit veterans' services organization that provides services related to reducing suicides among this state's military and veteran populations.

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

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020 - First Read and assigned to the House Military & Veterans Affairs and Rules Committees

[HB 2138 common law marriage confirmation; caregivers](#)

Establishes common law between two individuals when certain criteria are met when two persons live together in partnership at the time of the death of one of the persons. The surviving person must provide evidence to the clerk of the Superior Court that shows all of the following:

- The two persons are the biological or adoptive parents of one or more children together;
- The two persons have lived together in partnership for at least two consecutive years; and
- The surviving person acted as a caregiver to the deceased person while the persons lived together in partnership.

Contains a retroactive date of September 1, 2017.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2139 appropriation; veterans' services; benefits counselors

Appropriates \$1.2 million from the State General Fund, in addition to any other appropriations made in FY21, to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to hire additional benefits counselors.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2141 universities; community colleges; constitutions; instruction

Requires each university and community college in this state to offer a course of instruction on the constitutions of the United States and Arizona with a credit value of at least 6 semester hours. Prohibits a university or community college from granting a degree to any person who has not completed and earned credit for the course of instruction described above. Allows a university or community college to grant up to 3 semester hours of credit toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the program of an approved senior reserve officer training corps unit. Applies an exemption of this requirement for a degree granted on completion of an academic program offered by a medical and dental unit of a university or community college to a student who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Reserves or National Guard if certain criteria are met.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Anthony Kern, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions:

HB 2173 smoking regulation; electronic smoking devices

Makes several changes to the Smoke-Free Arizona Act including removing the exemption that allows smoking in veterans and fraternal clubs when they are not open to the general public.

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

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2020- First Read and assigned to the House Health & Human Services and Rules Committee.

HB 2175 occupational licensure; certification; requirements; residents

Adds that a military spouse or person who establishes residence in this state and who is seeking licensing reciprocity in this state must also have been continuously licensed or certified and practicing for at least six months in another state before applying in this state, must be in compliance with the licensing or certifying state's continuing education requirements and must attest at the time of applying that the person has not had discipline imposed by any other regulating entity.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Isela Blanc, D-Dist. 26

Major Actions:

HB 2183 funeral escorts; funeral board licensure

In addition to other provisions pertaining to military escort vehicles, requires the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to license funeral escort vehicles and drivers and military escort vehicles and drivers in a manner as prescribed by the Board by Rule. Additionally, the bill requires the Board to issue a

license to a driver of a military escort vehicle only if the applicant is affiliated with a nonprofit organization that provides military processions and meets the other requirements as prescribed by the Board.

NOTE: This bill is similar but not identical to [HB2694](#) which was discussed but held in the House Transportation Committee during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Isela Blanc, D-Dist. 26

Major Actions:

[HB 2195 appropriations; Native American veterans; renovations](#)

- Appropriates \$200,000 from the State General Fund to the Department of Veterans' Services in FY21 to be distributed to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration for a veterans' home renovation program.
- Appropriates \$200,000 from the State General Fund to the Department of Veterans' Services in FY21 to be distributed to the San Carlos Apache Tribe for a veterans' home renovation program.
- Appropriates \$200,000 from the State General Fund to the Department of Veterans' Services in FY21 to be distributed to the Hope Tribe for a veterans' home renovation program.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Arlando Teller, D-Dist. 7

Major Actions:

[HB 2216 technical correction; veterans](#)

Makes technical corrections.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Finchem, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions:

[HB 2220 property tax exemption; veterans' organizations](#)

Adds a property tax exemption for property that is owned by a United States veterans' organization that qualifies as a charitable organization and that is recognized as a 501(c)(4) of the internal revenue code if the property is used predominantly for those purposes and is not used or held for profit. Contains a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

NOTE: This is in addition to the existing property tax exemptions for VSO's that hold a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax exempt status

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2020- First Read and assigned to the House Ways & Means and Rules Committees.

[HB 2264 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

Major Actions:

[HB 2265 Enduring Freedom Memorial; appropriation](#)

Allows the Department of Administration (ADOA) to use appropriated monies from the State Monument and Memorial Repair Fund (SMMRF) to alter or modify the Enduring Freedom Memorial to add additional names to the memorial. Additionally, appropriates an unspecified amount from the SMMRF to ADOA in FY21 to alter or modify the Enduring Freedom Memorial to add additional names to the memorial.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Kelly Townsend, R-Dist. 16

Major Actions:

[HB 2283 nondomiciled commercial driver licenses; permits](#)

Permits the Department of Transportation (ADOT) to issue a nondomiciled commercial driver license or commercial instruction permit to an active duty military member or the spouse or dependent of an active duty military member if the member, spouse or dependent is not domiciled in this state and provides a residence address outside of this state.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions:

[HB 2286 appropriation; wastewater treatment infrastructure](#)

Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Environmental Quality to distribute to the city of Glendale for costs associated with the construction of water reclamation and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the vicinity of Luke Air Force Base in Maricopa County.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Joanne Osborne, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions:

[HB 2288 state licensing; fee waiver](#)

Provides an initial occupation licensing fee waiver for any active duty service members, their spouses and Arizona veterans.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Joanne Osborne, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions:

[HB 2310 appropriation; military installation projects](#)

Appropriates \$7,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to distribute to Yuma County for military installation preservation and enhancement projects.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Timothy Dunn, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions:

HB 2341 special license plates; veterans design

Establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts special plates if by December 31, 2020, a person pays \$32,000 to the Arizona Department of Transportation for implementation. Additionally, establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Special Plates Fund consisting of donations from the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Special Plates. Monies from the fund shall be annually allocated to a Veterans of Foreign Wars entity located in this state, for the purposes of training and paying persons throughout this state where needed to process veterans' claims for service-connected disabilities and illnesses.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2342 veterans; special license plates; design

Establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Auxiliary special plates if by December 31, 2020, a person pays \$32,000 to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for implementation. Additionally, establishes the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Auxiliary Special Plates Fund consisting of donations from the Veterans of Overseas Conflicts Auxiliary Special Plates. Monies from the fund shall be annually allocated to a Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary entity located in this state for the purposes of using the monies to fund its charitable works.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2384 VLT and registration fee exemptions

Allows for an exemption for vehicle license tax (VLT) and registration fees for a veteran or a veteran and another party owning a vehicle if the veteran is a bona fide Purple Heart Medal recipient. Provides that this exemption also applies to a surviving spouse of the veteran who is a bona fide Purple Heart Medal recipient until the surviving spouse's remarriage or death. Outlines criteria that must be met for a veteran with a disability rating 100% or Purple Heart recipient to receive the VLT and registration fee exemption.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2393 appropriation; Chinle veterans nursing home

Appropriates \$9,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to the Navajo nation for the design and construction of a veterans nursing home in Chinle agency.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Arlando Teller, D-Dist. 7

Major Actions:

HB 2395 appropriations; capital projects; Navajo Nation

- Appropriates \$1,444,100 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to the Navajo Nation for costs associated with constructing the Ganado senior and veterans center building.

- Appropriates \$300,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to the Navajo Nation for costs associated with constructing the Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter veterans building.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Arlando Teller, D-Dist. 7

Major Actions:

[HB 2484 department of education; career information](#)

Requires the Department of Education to annually collect and compile outlined information including the completion rates for United States military first-term enlistments.

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

Major Actions:

[HB 2512 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, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions:

[HB 2513 financial institutions; examinations; military lending](#)

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

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Kelli Butler, R-Dist. 28

Major Actions:

[HB 2571 appropriation; military; discharge; tribal ceremonies](#)

Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 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 2572 appropriation; Navajo veterans housing](#)

Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the State General Fund in FY21 to the Department of Economic Security to distribute to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Veterans Housing Program. These monies may be used only for Navajo veterans who reside in this state.

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

Major Actions:

[HB 2676 veterans; income tax subtraction; increase](#)

Increases the maximum subtraction from Arizona gross income for veteran benefits, annuities and pensions from \$3500 to the full pension amount for taxable years beginning from and after December 31, 2019. Contains a retroactive date of January 1, 2020.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions:

[HCR 2009 veterans; disability; property valuation protection](#)

Amends the Arizona Constitution to allow an honorably discharged veteran of the Uniformed Services of the United States who is a resident of this state and who has a service connected disability rating of 50% or more to apply to the county assessor for a veteran property valuation protection option on the person's primary residence. Directs the Secretary of the State to submit this proposition to the voters at the next General Election.

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

Major Actions:

Bills that Impact the ADVS Administratively

Senate Bills

[SB 1125 ASRS eligibility; waiting period](#)

Reduces the length of time before a state employee initially hired on or after October 1, 2020, must become a member of the Arizona State Retirement System.

Primary Sponsor(s): Senator David Livingston, R-Dist. 22

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2020- First Read and assigned to the Senate Finance and Rules Committees. **Scheduled to be heard in Senate Finance Committee 22 Jan 2020.**

House Bills

[HB 2113 ASRS; employer; member; contributions](#)

Requires the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) to provide employers with an employer credit against future contributions if more than the correct amount of employer or member contribution is paid into ASRS through a mistake of fact or mistake of law. Specifies that ASRS may not pay an employer earnings attributable to the excess contributions, but must reduce the amount returned to an employer by

the amount of losses attributable. Stipulates that on receipt of an employer credit or check the employer must return any member portion of the returned contributions to the member.

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

Major Actions: 16 Jan 2020- First Read and assigned to the House Government and Rules Committees. **Scheduled to be heard in House Government Committee on 23 Jan 2020.**

HB 2116 bereavement leave; death of child

Requires an employer to allow an eligible employee to use up to a total of two weeks unpaid bereavement leave during any 12 month period for purposes of attending the funeral or burial service of the eligible employee's child, making any arrangements resulting from the death of the eligible employee's child, or grieving the death of the eligible employee's child. Stipulates that if more than one child of an eligible employee dies within a 12-month period, the employer must allow the eligible employee to use up to a total of six work weeks of unpaid bereavement leave during any 12-month period. Allows an eligible employee to use other forms of paid leave concurrently with any unpaid bereavement leave taken. Defines "eligible employee" as an employee who meets the employment eligibility requirements under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and "employer" as an employer that is required to comply with the FMLA.

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

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2020- First Read and assigned to the House Commerce and Rules Committees.

HB 2190 state employees; paid family leave

Requires that a state employee, whether within or exempt from the State Personnel System, be granted six weeks of paid leave per fiscal year for the birth of the employee's child or placement of a child with the employee in connection with foster care or adoption.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2251 public employees; travel reimbursement; airfare

Specifies that when a public official or public employee must travel in their official capacity by airplane, reimbursement for airfare may not exceed the cost of coach airfare and may not include any upgrades such as business class or first class seating. Specifies that only public officials and public employees are eligible for reimbursement by a public entity.

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

Major Actions:

HB 2260 health facilities; resuscitation; emergency care

Requires health care institutions, including skilled nursing facilities, to do the following:

- Provide basic life support, including initiating immediate resuscitation, before the arrival of emergency medical services to a resident who experiences cardiac arrest or any other cessation of respiration in accordance with that resident's advance directives or a do-not-resuscitate order for that resident.

- Stipulates that facility staff who are certified in CPR must be available at the facility at all times.
 - Provide recovery assistance to noninjured residents who have fallen and are unable to reasonably recover themselves independently.
 - Stipulates that facility staff who are certified in fall recovery must be available at all times.
- Prohibits the health care institution from establishing or implementing policies that prevent employees from providing immediate resuscitation, emergency care or fall recovery assistance to their patients or residents.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Anthony Kern, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions: