ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

53rd Arizona Legislature, First Regular Session

Thursday, 9 February 2017

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 latest 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/

Senate Bills

SB 1110- tax subtraction; uniformed services pay

Would extend Arizona tax exemption to the pay of active service members of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, 2 p.m., SHR 1.

SB 1118- military justice; nonjudicial punishment procedures

Would make technical changes to the Arizona Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Steve Smith, R-Dist. 11; Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 23 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in

Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, 8-0. 30 Jan 2017-Out of Senate Rules Committee. 2 Feb 2017-Passed Senate 30-0. 2 Feb 2017-Transmitted to the House.

SB 1173- military family relief fund; continuation

Would remove the effective date for eligibility (September 11, 2001) that a service member applying for monies from the Military Family Relief Fund must have been injured, wounded or become seriously ill and extends the fund from 2018 to 2022.

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

Major Actions: 23 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1181- Native American veterans; tax settlement

Would backdate the eligibility period a Native veteran's qualifying active military pay state tax was withheld from the current September 1, 1993 to July 1, 1977 and would extend the deadline for submitting claims from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2019.

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

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1249- property tax exemptions; statutory conformity

As written, would, among other things, exempt from taxation the occupied primary residence of a veteran with a service or non-service connected disability. But, the bill then determines the amount of exemption by percentage of disability.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Judy Burges, R-Dist. 22

Major Actions: 25 Jan 2017- First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1327- Gold Star memorial

Would authorize the placement of a Gold Star memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol. No public money is allowed for the memorial nor is the State allowed to assist in fund raising for the memorial.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Debbie Lesko, R-Dist. 21, et al.

Major Actions: 26 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Government Committee, 7-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of Senate Rules Committee. 7 Feb 2017-Caucus.

SB 1443- veterans' donations fund; tax credit

Would extend the Military Family Relief Fund from 2018 to 2025 and cap the Military Family Relief Fund at its current amount by moving the associated $1-mil per year tax credit to the Veteran Donations Fund which, by statute, is to be used "for the benefit of the veterans (of all eras) within this state as grants".

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1444- income tax subtraction; military retirement

Would incrementally reduce Arizona income tax on military retirement pay beginning in tax year 2019 fully deducting military retirement pay in 2022.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14; Rep. Richard Andrade, D-Dist. 29, et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1457- tribal nations; veterans' services; appropriation

Would appropriate $2.2-mil to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for hiring and training 20 veteran benefit counselors to provide service to rural tribal nations.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1458- health careers; military veterans; committee

Would establish a study committee to focus on ways to create career pathways for military veterans who have military health care experience and analyze how health care standards learned in the military compare with the state's standards.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1470- lottery game; veterans assistance

Would create a special instant Arizona lottery game with proceeds to go to provide assistance to veterans.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Catherine Miranda, D-Dist. 27; et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1472- memorial; veteran diversity

Would authorize a memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza (State Capitol) dedicated to the commemoration of Arizona veteran diversity. No public money is allowed for the memorial nor is the State allowed to assist in fund raising for the memorial.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Catherine Miranda, D-Dist. 27; et al.

Major Actions: 31 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee, Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SCR 1028- veterans' services; Navajo nation; cooperation

A Concurrent Resolution expressing the State's commitment to ensuring continued cooperation between the Navajo Nation and the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions: 1 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, 2 p.m., SHR 1.

House Bills

HB 2004- veteran-owned businesses; procurement preference

Would require the Arizona Department of Administration to establish a goal of awarding 1.5% of State contracts to qualified veteran-owned businesses beginning 1 January 2017 and increasing 3% or more for "every year thereafter" and require the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish a registry of veteran-owned businesses and verify the veteran status and eligibility of businesses seeking to be awarded a contract under this proposal..

A qualifying veteran-owned business is "an individual proprietorship, partnership, corporation or joint venture that is at least 51-percent owned by one or more veterans receiving monthly combat-related special compensation." The qualifying veteran(s) would have to control management and daily control of the business, and the home office of the business would have to be in Arizona and not a branch or subsidiary of a foreign company.

Except for construction contracts, a qualifying business would have to use at least 50%of the proceeds of the contract to pay for salaries.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 19

Major Actions: 9 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee and House Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee, 2 p.m., HHR 3.

HB 2107- schools; nonresident pupils; military duty

Would grant required school attendance residency status for children of active duty military members who are transferred to a military installation in any Arizona school district.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Paul Boyer, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions: 12 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 23 Jan 2017- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in the House Education Committee, 9-0-2 not voting. 30 Jan 2017-Out of House Rules Committee.

HB 2117- state militia; firearms; rights

Would amend current state statute regarding the composition of the Arizona militia to include all able bodied "and law abiding" residents of Arizona "who own a firearm" and are between the ages of 18 to 45. Current exemptions for mental illness, blindness and conviction of infamous crimes among other exemptions remain in effect. The second part of the proposal reinforces the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Article II of the Constitution of the State of Arizona to keep and bear arms and states that that right may not be called into question by Federal, State, or local government.

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

Major Actions: 12 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy (FPRPP) Committee and House Rules Committee. 24 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House FPRPP Committee, 8-0-3 not voting.

HB 2204- Native American veterans; tax settlement

Would backdate the eligibility period a Native veteran's qualifying active military pay state tax was withheld from the current September 1, 1993 to July 1, 1977 and would extend the deadline for submitting claims from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2019. Identical to SB 1181.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. T.R. Shope, R-Dist. 8

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Scheduled for Third Reading.

HB 2270- postsecondary education; veterans; transfer credits

Would expand current statute requiring Arizona's public universities and community colleges to award academic credit for a veteran's or active military member's "military skills, knowledge and competencies" acquired during U. S. military service toward the pursuit of an associate degree or certification and also apply the expanded statute to state licensed private vocational programs.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Maria Syms, R-Dist. 28, et al.

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Education Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Education Committee, 10-0-1 not voting. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Scheduled for debate in Committee of the Whole.

HB 2271- occupational licensing; military members

Would accept substantially equivalent military training, education, or experience to "completely or partially" satisfy requirements for a state-issued license, certificate, or registration. Regulating entities will verify a veteran's military education, training or experience through the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Maria Syms, R-Dist. 28, et al.

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House MVRA Committee, 9-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Scheduled for Third Reading.

HB 2297- national guard; readiness center; appropriation

Would appropriate $6-million for the Arizona National Guard to establish and build a readiness center if federal portion of the funding becomes available.

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

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Appropriations Committee and House Rules Committee. 8 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Appropriations Committee, 13-0-1 not voting.

HB 2309- military family relief fund; continuation

Would remove the effective date for eligibility (September 11, 2001) that a service member applying for monies from the Military Family Relief Fund must have been injured, wounded or become seriously ill and extends the fund from 2018 to 2022. Identical to SB 1173.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 17 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 30 Jan 2017- Hearing scheduled in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee. Held in House MVRA Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0.

HB 2324- VLT; registration; exemptions; Purple Heart

Would exempt "bona fide Purple Heart recipients" and their surviving spouses from the state vehicle license tax on initial registration.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Travis W. Grantham, R-Dist. 12

Major Actions: 18 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 8-0. 6 Feb 2017-Out of House Rules Committee, 8-0-1 absent. 9 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Committee of the Whole.

HB 2341- national guard; deployment; professional licenses

Current statute extends a state issued license, certificate or registration for a member of the "Arizona National Guard or the United States armed forces reserves" 180 days following return from federal active duty or if the member is released from active duty following an injury. This would change the language to "national guard or other reserve component".

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

Major Actions: 26 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0.

HB 2342- veterans' services; benefits counselors; appropriation

Would appropriate the sum of $500,000 to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to hire 10 additional veteran benefit counselors.

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

Major Actions: 24 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, House Appropriations Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 7-2.

HB 2352- national guard; reduced tuition rate

Would allow members of the Arizona National Guard to attend any Arizona public institution of higher learning at the tuition rate paid by employees of the school if the National Guard member has exhausted vocational rehabilitation training under 38 USC 3100 through 3122 or Post 9/11 educational assistance.

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

Major Actions: 26 Jan 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2017-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee, 9-0.

HB 2415- in-state tuition; veterans

Congress recently modified Public Law 114-315, which modifies 38 U.S.C. 3679(c) pertaining to veterans' in-state tuition. The change put a number of states, including Arizona, out of compliance with the changed law and, without a change in state statute people will be unable to use veterans' educational benefits in Arizona after 1 July 2017. The language in HB 2415 has been reviewed by the VA and will make Arizona compliant.

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

Major Actions: 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee, 2 p.m., HHR 3.

HB 2421- Purple Heart special plates; fees

Would remove the $25 fee for a Purple Heart license plate that goes to the Veterans' Donation Fund and charge $5 for an initial plate and annual renewal of the plate.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Brenda Barton, R-Dist. 6

Major Actions: 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Transportation Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2433- income tax subtraction; veterans' pensions

Would exemption $5,000 of a veterans' pension from Arizona State income tax each year OR would exempt "the full amount of benefits, annuities and pensions" of an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in a combat zone during a period of war or against hostile forces. The exemption would be retroactive to and after December 31, 2016.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Todd Clodfelter, R-Dist. 10; et al.

Major Actions: 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2474- veterans; mental health courts; establishment

Would require the presiding judge in each county to establish a veterans/mental health court in the superior court of each county and refer veterans accused of aggravated DUI to the veterans or mental health court and suspend prosecution of such veterans for 24 months allowing the veteran to participate in a deferred prosecution program which, upon successful completion, DUI charge will be dropped.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Ray Martinez, D-Dist. 30; et al.

Major Actions: 7 Feb 2017-First Read and assigned to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and House Rules Committee.

HCR 2025- hidden heroes day; military caregivers

A House Concurrent Resolution that would proclaim 20 May 2017 as Hidden Heroes Day in honor of the military and veteran caregivers who daily care for wounded servicemembers and veterans.

Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Travis W. Grantham, R-Dist. 12; et al.

Major Actions: 13 Feb 2017-Hearing scheduled in the House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee, 2 p.m., HHR 3 if First Read and Assigned.