ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update

Friday, 7 Feb 2014

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

PSRMA=Public Safety, Military and Regulatory

Affairs Committee

To view bills go to: http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp

Senate bill introduction deadline was 5 p.m. Monday, 3 Feb 2014. As of the deadline, there had been 483 Senate Bills, 8 Senate Concurrent Memorials, 22 Senate Concurrent Resolutions, 1

Senate Memorial, and 11 Senate Resolutions introduced.

Senate Bills

SB 1040- leave of absence; auxiliary members

Would authorize leaves of absence for training purposes for public employees who are members of an "auxiliary of the Armed Forces of the United States" such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Civil Air Patrol.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Barto, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to the Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, the Senate Government and Environment Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee. 27 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Government and Environment Committee, 5-1-1 not voting. 29 Jan 2014-Held in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee. 4 Feb 2014-Melvin amendment limiting leave for public employees who are auxiliary members to 30 days in any two consecutive years was adopted. Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation by Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee 4-0-3 not voting. 5 Feb 2014-Reassigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee for purpose of adding a "Strike Everything" amendment on Weds, 12 Feb 20014, SHR 1.

SB 1051- technical correction; military affairs NOW: medical board; pro bono registration

Now dealing with pro bono registration for doctors.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Barto, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: 13 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Rules Committee.4 Feb 2014- Strike everything amendment adopted in Senate Health and Human Services Committee dealing with probono registration for doctors.

SB 1099- Navajo code talkers' day

Would place in statute that each August 14th is Navajo Code Talkers' Day, (not a legal holiday).

Original Sponsor: Sen. Carlyle Begay, D-Dist. 7; et al

Major Actions: 21 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to Senate Government and Environment Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1112- technical correction; guardians

A place-holding bill for a "strike everything" bill, purpose unknown, that is in the statute regarding military member power of attorney. May have nothing to do with that subject.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Don Shooter, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions: 21 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1171- emergency planning; technical correction

A place-holding bill for a "strike everything" bill, purpose unknown, that is in the statute relating to emergency and military affairs. May have nothing to do with that subject.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 23 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1174- technical correction; national guard

A place-holding bill for a "strike everything" bill, purpose unknown, that is in the statute relating to the national guard. May have nothing to do with that subject.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 23 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1291- national defense laws; prohibited actions

Would prohibit the use of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (P.L. 112-81; 125 Stat. 1298, or any other similar federal law in Arizona and stating that neither Congress nor the President

of the United States can constitutionally authorize the detention or disposition of any person in this state or a resident of this state within the United States under the law of war who is not serving in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service during a time of war or public danger.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Judy Burges, R-Dist. 22, et al.

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Government and Environment Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1312- Vietnam veterans day

Would make each March 29th recognized as "Vietnam Veterans Day" in Arizona, not a legal holiday. Would supersede a concurrent resolution passed in 2010 and put the recognition in statute.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Weds, 12 Feb 2014, hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, 9 a.m., SHR 1.

SB 1313- Arizona gold star military medal

Would authorize the creation of the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal to recognize and be awarded to Arizona servicemembers killed in the line of duty or in support of combat operations since Arizona became a state on 14 Feb 1912.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Weds, 12 Feb 2014, hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, 9 a.m., SHR 1.

SB 1328- state parks; disabled veteran's pass

Would allow the Arizona State Parks Board to issue a disabled veteran's pass to all State parks in Arizona at no charge to Arizona veterans at least 30-percent service-connected disabled who have been resident for at least the past twelve months. **Companion bill to HB 2038.**

Original Sponsor: Sen. Don Shooter, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions: 4 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee. Weds, 12 Feb 2014, hearing scheduled in Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee, 9 a.m., SHR 1.

SB 1332- military medal recipients; license plates

Would create special Arizona license plates for recipients of the Bronze Star; the Silver Star; the Distinguished Service Cross; the Navy Cross; and the Air Force Cross.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Don Shooter, R-Dist. 13

Major Actions: 4 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Transportation Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1401- United States submarine memorial

Would authorize the building of a memorial dedicated to United States submarine veterans in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State capitol.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 4 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SCR 1008- commendation; Davis-Monthan air force base

A concurrent resolution recognizing and commending the personnel of Tucson's Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions: 6 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce, Energy and Military Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

SCR 1010- land donation; veterans' cemetery

A concurrent resolution recognizing and expressing gratitude to the Kai Family Foundation for its donation of land to build a State veterans' cemetery in Marana.

Original Sponsor: Sen. Al Melvin, R-Dist. 11

Major Actions:

House Bills

HB 2038- state parks; disabled veterans' pass

Would allow the Arizona State Parks Board to issue a disabled veteran's pass to all State parks in Arizona at no charge to Arizona veterans at least 30-percent service-connected disabled who have been resident for at least the past twelve months.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Doris Goodale, R-Dist. 5

Major Actions: 15 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2103- concealed carry permit; qualifications

Would issue concealed weapons permits to U.S. Citizens or residents of this state, 21 years old or older, OR at least 19 years old who provides evidence of current military service or proof of honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces, Reserve, or a State National Guard.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Townsend, R-Dist. 16, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 5-3.**

HB 2135- military affairs commission; continuation

Would continue the Arizona Military Affairs Commission to 1 July 2022.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Darin Mitchell, R-Dist. 13, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. Wed, 29 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0. **3 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules Committee 6-0-0-3. Placed on Consent Calendar.**

HB 2140- technical correction; armed forces; taxes

A place-holding bill that may be a "strike everything" bill, purpose unknown.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Warren Petersen, R-Dist. 12

Major Actions:

HB 2146- EMT certification requirements; military applicants

Would make military training, including Reserve and National Guard training, in an Emergency Medical Technician position completely or partially satisfy State licensing requirements

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Health Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2147- veterans; hiring; tax credit

Would allow businesses a tax credit for hiring honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, who is collecting unemployment at the time of hire, whose job will pay at least the median annual Arizona wage. Credit will be allowed in the first year or partial year of veteran employment. Excludes employer's relatives. Credit would be allowed as lowest of: Ten percent of salary paid during taxable year; \$2,000 per veteran employee; \$4,000 if veteran employee is an honorably separated veteran who served on active duty in the armed forces at any time and who has a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation or disability retirement benefits under laws administered by the United States department of veterans affairs, army, navy, air force, coast guard or United States public health service shall be given a ten point preference pursuant to this section.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules

Committee.

HB 2150- empowerment scholarships: military families

Would exempt children whose parent(s) or quardian(s) are Active Duty members of the United States Armed Forces from certain eligibility requirements of the empowerment scholarship account program.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5, et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Education Committee and House Rules

Committee.

HB 2177- appropriation; veterans' services; supportive campuses

Would appropriate \$500,000 to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services "to establish supportive campuses and to provide resources for veteran benefits counselors. A "vehicle bill" for a striker.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Orr, R-Dist. 9

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee.

HB 2189- Arizona state militia; age

Would eliminate the upper age cut-off for membership in the Arizona State militia. Also specifies that all "able bodied citizens of the State", over 18 years of age and capable of bearing arms are members of the militia.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Carl Seel, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules

Committee.

HB 2190- citizens' marksmanship training program; fund

Would establish the Arizona Citizens' Marksmanship Program to provide firearms training to citizens eligible for membership in the Arizona State Guard and creates a fund comprised of donations and administered by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). DEMA would also have the authority to sell firearms and other equipment to promote firearms training.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Carl Seel, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee, House

Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee.

HB 2191- state guard; firearm; equipment

Would define the firearms that members of the Arizona State Guard may purchase including "any other small arms weapons system, ammunition or equipment that is in use by the Armed Forces of the United States or any law enforcement agency in this State".

Original Sponsor: Rep. Carl Seel, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions:

HB 2204- military applicants; commercial driver licenses

Would waive the driving test requirement for class A, B or C licenses for qualified applicants who can prove they were in a military position requiring operation of a commercial motor vehicle within the past 12 months. Current statute requires it be within the past 90 days. Borrelli amendment brings it back to 90 days in current statute and requires applicant to show they were operating a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle the driver applicant now operates or expects to operate, for at least the 2 years immediately preceding discharge from the military.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Karen Fann, R-Dist. 1

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Transportation Committee and House Rules Committee. 6 Feb 2014-Borrelli amendment adopted in House Transportation Committee complying with 49 Code of Federal Regulations Section 383.77 which brings the time period back to the current 90 days following discharge (see http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/49/383.77). Bill given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation 6-0.

HB 2208- Navajo veterans' housing; appropriation

Would appropriate \$929,500 to the Navajo Nation for the completion and operation of the veteran housing project.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Albert Hale, R-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee.

HB 2303- permits or tags; transfer; veterans

Would permit the Department of Game and Fish to transfer a big game permit or tag from a person who wishes to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who has a service connected disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Frank Pratt, R-Dist. 8; et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and House Rules Committee. 27 Jan 2014-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, 8-0. **3 Feb 2014-Out of House Rules Committee 6-0-0-3 absent. Placed on Consent Calendar.**

HB 2308- tax exemption; veterans; military pensions

Would exempt the full amount of an honorably discharged veteran's pension/retired pay from Arizona State income tax.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Justin Pierce, R-Dist. 25; Sen. David Bradley, D-Dist. 10

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2311- military justice; courts martial

Would revise provisions of the Arizona Code of Military Justice.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Justin Pierce, R-Dist. 25; Sen. David Bradley, D-Dist. 10

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 8-0.**

HB 2332- unclaimed remains; veterans; burial

Would authorize the holder of the unclaimed cremated remains of a verified veteran to turn them over for burial in a veteran cemetery to a congressionally chartered veteran service organization, a veteran organization recognized by the VA, or a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) charitable organization that is organized for the verification and burial of veterans.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Orr, R-Dist. 9; et al.

Major Actions: 22 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 3.

HB 2402- military retirees; pension exclusion amount

Would exempt \$3,000 of military retirement/pension from Arizona State income tax in lieu of the current \$2,500 deduction.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Stevens, R-Dist. 14; et al.

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee.

HB 2403- state parks; disabled veteran's pass

Would allow the State Parks Board to issue a free "Disabled Veterans' Pass" to residents of at least a year and a 30 percent verified service-connected disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Stevens, R-Dist. 14; et al.

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 3.

HB 2443- hunting and fishing licenses; military

Would allow military members on permanent assignment or TDY in Arizona to immediately apply for hunting or fishing license. Currently, there is a 30 day waiting period for servicemembers permanently assigned here.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Gowan, R-Dist. 14; et al.

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 3.

HB 2457- mental health; veterans courts; establishment

Would authorize the presiding judge of each county superior court to establish a *regional* veterans court. This would allow Justice of the Peace Courts as well as municipal courts in the county to transfer veterans cases to the regional veterans court.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Farnsworth, R-Dist. 12

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **Weds, 12 Feb 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 3.**

HB 2475- tax credits; veterans

Would require the Arizona Department of Administration to establish a goal of awarding 1.5% of State contracts to veteran-owned businesses increasing 3% or more for each year after the first year 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 considered for the registry. The home office of the business would have to be in Arizona and not a branch or subsidiary of a foreign company.

Would also establish a tax credit up to \$2,400 for each honorably discharged unemployed veteran who is not a family member hired by a taxpayer for a maximum of \$150,000.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Mark Cardenas, D-Dist. 12; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2499- separating service members; professional licenses

Would allow the state to issue a professional license or certification to an honorably discharged veteran if the veteran holds a license or certification at the same level from another state and has separated from the Armed Forces in the preceding 90 days.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Dist. 27; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 30 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2500- professional licensure; reciprocity; military spouses

Would require a license or certificate to be issued to the spouse of an Active Duty military member within 72 hours after application if a criminal background check is not required and within 120 hours after application if a criminal background check is required if the person is currently licensed or certified at the same level in another state. *This bill appears to conflict with HB 2499 above in that they attempt to do two different things in the same existing statute.*

Original Sponsor: Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Dist. 27; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 5 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee

HB 2514- combat related special compensation

Would prohibit courts from considering service-connected disability benefits for combat-related disabled veterans in divorce proceedings when deciding distribution of property or spousal maintenance. Current statute prohibits same for Title 38 disability.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Townsend, D-Dist. 16; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 5 Feb 2014-First Read and assigned to House Judiciary Committee and House Rules Committee.

HB 2537- pawnbrokers; interest; military members

Would increase the interest pawnbrokers may charge from 8 to 13 % per month the first two months, but not more than 11% per month thereafter from the current 6%. Would also require pawnbrokers who receive copies of deployment orders for members of the Arizona National Guard, Reserves, or Active Duty military or their spouses to waive any unpaid interest charges and hold the pledged goods until 60 days after the military member returns from active duty service.

Original Sponsor: Rep. T. J. Shope, D-Dist. 8; Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 3 Feb 2014- First Read and assigned to House Commerce Committee and House Rules Committee. 5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House Commerce Committee 6-3.

HB 2569- auto title loans; military members

Would require the superintendent of Financial Institutions to enforce P.L. 109-364; 120 STAT. 2083; 10 USC Section 987, regarding loans to military members.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Debbie McCune Davis, D-Dist. 30; et al.

Major Actions:

HB 2604- military members; auto title loans

Would also require the superintendent of Financial Institutions to enforce P.L. 109-364; 120 STAT. 2083; 10 USC Section 987, regarding loans to military members.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions:

HCM 2001-POWs; MIAs; congressional committee

A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Congress to establish a select committee on POW and MIA affairs.

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; Rep. Paul Boyer, R-Dist. 20; Rep. Doris Goodale, R-Dist. 5; Sen. David Farnsworth, R-Dist.16.

Major Actions: 14 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. 12 Feb 2014-Hearing scheduled in House PSMRA Committee, 9 a.m., HHR 3.

HCM 2002-Navajo code talker trial; highway

A concurrent resolution urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate the portion of Interstate 40 between New Mexico and Flagstaff as "The Navajo Code Talker Trail".

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, R-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions:

HCM 2003-Native American code talker highway

A concurrent resolution urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate the portion of State Highway 264 between Tuba City and Window Rock as "Native American Code Talker Highway".

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, R-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions:

HCM 2004-Native American women veterans highway

A concurrent resolution urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate the portion of US Route 160 between New Mexico and the junction of US Route 89 as the "Native American Women Veteran Highway".

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, R-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions:

HCM 2005-Native American veterans highway

A concurrent resolution urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate the portion of US Route 89 located between Utah and Flagstaff as the "Native American Veterans Highway".

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, R-Dist. 7; et al.

Major Actions:

HCR 2010- state militia; age requirement

Proposing an amendment to Article XVI, Section 1, Arizona Constitution to eliminate the upper age limit for membership in the Arizona State militia. Currently, the upper age limit is 45 years old. This change would make all residents older than 18 who are "capable of bearing arms" members of the militia.

Original Sponsor: Rep. Carl Seel, R-Dist. 20

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014- First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House

Rules Committee.

HCR 2021- military personnel; technical correction

A place-holding bill that may be a "strike everything" bill, purpose unknown.

Original Sponsor: Rep. David Gowan, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions:

HM 2001- agent orange exposure; Vietnam veterans

Urging the U. S. Congress to restore the presumption of service connection between exposure to Agent Orange and subsequent illnesses contracted by Vietnam veterans

Original Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Dist. 5; et al.

Major Actions: 28 Jan 2014-First Read and assigned to House PSMRA Committee and House Rules Committee. **5 Feb 2014-Given "Do Pass" recommendation in House PSMRA Committee 7-0-0-1.**