

**ADVS State Veterans/Military Legislation Update**  
**53rd Arizona Legislature, Second Regular Session**

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**Adjourned Sine Die**

**At 12.26 a.m.**

**Friday, 4 May 2017**

**Effective date for bills without Emergency Clauses is 1 August 2018.**

**Monday, 7 May 2018**

**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 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 1089- purple heart day**

Would make each 7 August "Purple Heart Day" in Arizona. Not a legal holiday.

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

**Major Actions:** 10 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2018-Passed Senate 28-0-2 absent and transmitted to the House. 19 Feb 2018-First Read in House and assigned to House Military Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 13 March 2018-Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and returned to the Senate. 14 March 2018-Transmitted to the Governor. **16 March 2018- Signed by Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1090- Beirut barracks bombing remembrance day**

Would make, by statute, each 23 October in Arizona “Beirut Barracks Bombing Remembrance Day” to commemorate the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on 23 October 1983. Not a legal holiday.

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

**Major Actions:** 10 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2018-Passed Senate 28-0-2 absent and transmitted to the House. 19 Feb 2018-First Read in House and assigned to House Military Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and returned to the Senate. 9 April 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **12 April 2018-Signed by the Governor-ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1179- memorial; buffalo soldiers**

Would authorize a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Catherine Miranda, D-Dist. 27

**Major Actions:** 16 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Mar 2018- First Read in House and assigned to House Government Committee and House Rules Committee. 2 April 2018-Passed House 56-0-4 not voting and returned to the Senate. 3 April 2018-Transmitted to the Governor. **5 April 2018- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1253- game and fish; licenses; fees**

Among other things, would allow Arizona Game and Fish to provide complimentary licenses to U. S. Armed Forces veterans who receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated by the VA at 100% and who have been an Arizona resident for at least one year prior to applying for the license. Same as HB 2310.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14, et al

**Major Actions:** 22 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Natural Recourses, Energy and Water Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 29 Jan 2018-Clarifying amendment adopted in Senate Natural Recourses, Energy and Water Committee that would limit complimentary licenses to veterans rated as 100% disabled by VA and who have been Arizona residents for one year before applying for a license and given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation 8-0. 13 Feb 2018-Passed Senate 27-2-1 not voting and transmitted to the House. 19 Feb 2018-First Read in House and assigned to House Energy, Environment, and National Resources Committee and House Rules Committee. 22 March 2018-Passed House 55-4-1 not voting and returned to the Senate. 26 March 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **29 March 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1431- memorial; veterans; suicide**

Would authorize the department of administration to provide for the placement in the governmental mall of a memorial dedicated to the commemoration of veterans who have committed suicide due to unresolved post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Nancy Barto, R-Dist. 15

**Major Actions:** 30 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 21 Feb 2018- Passed Senate 30-0 and transmitted to the House. 22 Feb 2018- First Read in House and assigned to House Military, Veterans, and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 4 April 2018- Lawrence floor amendment adopted to make clear that the memorial would be dedicated to those veterans who have committed suicide due to unresolved post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 60-0 and returned to the Senate. 9 April 2018- Senate concurred with amended bill and Final passed SB 1431 28-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Governor. **12 April 2018-Signed by the Governor- ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SCR 1004- Beirut bombing; remembrance day**

A concurrent resolution to honor the victims of the 1983 bombing of the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon and to proclaim October 23, 2018 as Beirut Bombing Remembrance Day in Arizona.

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

**Major Actions:** 11 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2018- Passed Senate 28-0-2 absent and transmitted to the House. 19 Feb 2018-First Read in House and assigned to House Military Veterans and Regulatory Affairs (MVRA) Committee and House Rules Committee. 21 March 2018- Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and returned to the Senate. **22 March 2018- Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1522- capital outlay; appropriations; 2018-2019**

Part of the State budget bills, pages 1, 7 and 8 further appropriates from the State Home for Veterans Trust Fund an additional \$4-million to the Flagstaff State Veteran Home and an additional \$4-million to the Yuma State Veteran Home for additional construction costs resulting from delayed VA matching funds and in making each a 90-bed facility.

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

**Major Actions:** **3 May 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**SB 1529- revenues; budget reconciliation; 2018-2019**

Part of the State budget bills, page 12 increases the current \$2,500 State income tax deduction for military retirement pay to \$3,500 in 2019.

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

**Major Actions: 3 May 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

## **House Bills**

### **HB 2027- alternative fuel special plates; veterans**

Would allow the owner of a qualified alternative fuel vehicle with veteran special license plates to be issued the diamond shaped alternative fuel sticker for placement on the vehicle's plate. Right now, veteran plates are not compatible with the alt-fuel sticker. This lets the people with veteran plates don't have to give up their veteran plate to use the alt-fuel sticker. This would allow that vehicle to use high occupancy vehicle lanes at any time regardless of the number of people in the vehicle.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Randy Friese, D-Dist. 9, et al.

**Major Actions: 9 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 8 Feb 2018- Passed House 57-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 15 Feb 2018- First Read and assigned to Senate Transportation and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 3 April 2018-Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House. Transmitted to the Governor. 5 April 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2191- military families; assistance; subaccounts**

Extends the existing Military Family Relief Fund to 2026 and creates another separate sub account like the Military Family Relief Fund for the assistance of "Pre-9/11" veterans and their families who qualify.

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

**Major Actions: 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA), House Appropriations Committee, and House Rules Committee. 8 Feb 2018- Passed House 57-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 15 Feb 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee. 5 March 2018-Smith amendment adopted in Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee that would give donors the choice of donating 100% to pre-9/11 veterans' account; 100% to post-9/11 veterans account; divide donation 50% to each account. Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation 8-0. 29 March 2018- Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 11 April 2018- Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House for transmittal to the Governor. 23 April 2018- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2192- military family relief fund; extension**

Simply extends the existing Military Family Relief Fund to 2026 which is set to expire on 31 December 2018.

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

**Major Actions:** 17 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 7 Feb 2018-Passed House 57-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 15 Feb 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 5 April 2018- Passed Senate 28-0-2 not voting and returned to the House. 9 April 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **12 April 2018-Signed by the Governor-ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2317- disability plates; permanent placards**

Under this bill, an Arizona veteran with a VA certified 100% disability can obtain a permanent disability windshield placard for the automobile that will not expire as long as the veteran's certified 100% disability exists. Currently, the placards are only good for five years.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Drew John, R-Dist. 14

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 15 Feb 2018- Passed House 58-1-1 and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2018- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Transportation Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 13 March 2018-Passed Senate 29-0-1 not voting and returned to the House. 14 March 2018-Transmitted to the Governor. **16 March 2018- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2412- leave of absence; day; definition**

Defines "Day" as a "shift of work" for state employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve Forces who are entitled to leave from the state job on days the employee reports for military training.

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

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 8 Feb 2018-Passed House 58-0-1-1 vacant and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2018-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 26 March 2018- Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the House. 27 March 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **29 March 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

### **HB 2421- national guard; employment rights**

Would clearly state that Arizona employers must allow members of the National Guard of any state or members of the U. S. Reserve Forces time off to participate in ordered drills. There are residents of Arizona who are members of other state's National Guard and residents of other states who are members of the Arizona National Guard.

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

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 15 Feb 2018-Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation in House Committee of the Whole. Passed House 59-0-1 and transmitted to the Senate. 20 Feb 2018-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 28 March 2018-Passed Senate 30-0 and returned to the

House. 29 March 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **3 April 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**HB 2513- hyperbaric oxygen therapy; veterans; fund**

Would appropriate \$25,000 to create a fund administered by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and controlled by an appointed committee to pay for hyperbaric oxygen treatments for veterans.

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

**Major Actions:** 6 Feb 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 20 Feb 2018- Finchem floor amendment adopted to move the administration of the fund and committee from DEMA to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Passed House 59-0-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 26 Feb 2018-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 26 March 2018-Passed Senate 30-0, returned to House. 27 March 2018- Transmitted to the Governor. **29 March 2018- Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**HB 2575- license; nonoperating identification; homeless veterans**

Would waive the fee for an Arizona driver's license or identification card issued by the Arizona Department of Transportation to homeless veterans.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Reginald Bolding, D-Dist. 27

**Major Actions:** 6 Feb 2018- First Read and assigned to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Rules Committee. 21 Feb 2018- Passed House 54-5-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 1 March 2018- First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Transportation and Technology Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 24 April 2018- Passed Senate 26-3-1 not voting and returned to House. Transmitted to the Governor. **30 April 2018-Signed by the Governor. ACTION COMPLETED.**

**HCM 2007- blue water navy; Vietnam veterans**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to enact the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act to restore the presumptive coverage for blue water veterans and remove the burden of having to prove their exposure to Agent Orange.

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

**Major Actions:** 7 Feb 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 21 Feb 2018- Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 14 March 2018-First Read in the Senate and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 28 March 2018- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 29 March 2018-Passed Senate 30-0. **2 April 2018-Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

## **HCM 2008- ghost army; urging recognition**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to recognize and award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the WWII 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company, also known as "The Ghost Army". During WWII, these units used inflatable tanks and artillery, sound equipment and impersonation to confuse the enemy about where the real Allied fighting units were located.

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

**Major Actions:** 7 Feb 2018-First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 21 Feb 2018- Passed House 58-0-2 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 14 March 2018-First Read in the Senate and assigned to Senate Government Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 28 March 2018- Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. 29 March 2018-Passed Senate 30-0. **2 April 2018-Transmitted to the Secretary of State. ACTION COMPLETED.**

## **BILLS THAT DIED IN END PROCESS**

### **SB 1044- telecommunications fund; report; website **NOW: veterans courts; establishment; requirements****

Would permit the presiding judge of each county to establish eligibility criteria for referring aggravated DUI cases to veterans' courts that allege violations:

- a) while the person's driver license or privilege to drive is suspended, canceled, revoked or refused or while a restriction is placed on the person's driver license or privilege to drive; or
- b) while the violation occurs in a motor vehicle the person operates with a certified court ordered ignition interlock device.

Such persons under the jurisdiction of a veterans' court and who are charged with the above offenses are eligible for probation regardless of prior criminal history. If placed on probation, the court must require the person be screened by a physician or mental health care specialist to determine whether that person suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. John Kavanagh, R-Dist. 23; **Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Dist. 6**

**Major Actions:** 22 March 2018- Thorpe "Strike Everything" amendment and amendment to "Strike Everything" amendment adopted changing this bill into one dealing with veterans' courts as described above. Given a "Do Pass Amended" recommendation 4-2-2 not voting. **Not heard in House Rules Committee.**

### **SB 1268- class six property; elderly homeowners**

Would classify as “Class 6 property”, taxed at 5% of value, the primary residence on a single parcel of real property up to 40 acres under certain conditions of residents 65 years of age or older who qualify for property valuation protection under Article IX, Section 18, Subsection (7) of the Arizona Constitution if the person does not own any other real property. Residents must live in the property for two years. If the county assessor approves a property valuation protection, the value for tax purposes of the property shall remain fixed as long as the owner remains eligible. The short title of this bill is “*Senior Citizen and Veteran Tax Relief Act*”.

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

**Major Actions:** 22 Jan 2018-First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 22 Feb 2018- Passed Senate 28-2 and transmitted to the House. 26 Feb 2018- First Read in House and assigned to House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules Committee. Pending House Rules Committee. **3 May 2018- FAILED in House 11-49.**

### **SCM 1013- Native American veterans highway**

A concurrent memorial urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate the portion of U.S. Route 89 located between the Utah State line and Flagstaff as the “Native American Veterans Highway” in honor of Native American veterans.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Dist. 7

**Major Actions:** 27 March 2018- First Read in Senate and given unanimous approval by voice vote in Senate and transmitted to the House. **Not heard in House.**

### **SCR 1007- senior property valuation freeze; income**

In 2000, voters approved an Arizona Constitutional property valuation protection option for Arizona residents who are 65 years of age or older. In order to qualify for the option, a person must have resided on the property for at least two years, and the total combined income of the property owner, including nontaxable income, must not exceed 400 percent of the supplemental security income benefit rate established in the Social Security Act. If a property is owned by two or more persons, the total combined income must not exceed 500 percent of this amount. The county assessor must take the average of the person's total income over three years in the review of eligibility. If an application for a protection option is approved, the value of the property is fixed at the full cash value of the property at the time the application is filed and remains fixed for three years (Ariz. Const. art. 9, § 18).

According to the Social Security Administration, the current monthly Supplemental Security Income payment authorized by Section 1611(b)(1) of the Social Security Act is \$750. This means that an applicant for the valuation protection program must not have a three-year average income exceeding \$36,000 if the applicant is the sole owner of the property, or \$45,000 if the property is owned by two or more persons. **Would have to be approved by voters in the next general election should SCR 1007 pass.**

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

**Major Actions:** 16 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2018- Passed Senate 28-0-2 absent and transmitted to the House. 22



March 2018- Passed House 59-0-1 not voting. 5 April 2018- Returned to floor for adoption of a technical amendment. Given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation. Not Third Read in House.

**HB 2194-** podiatrists; dispensing registration; repeal **NOW: post-traumatic stress disorder; treatments**

Establishes definitions, requirements, and prohibitions relating to the treatment of integrated trauma therapy (ITT) and hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for veterans, first responders, or other patients diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15 **Sen. John Kavanagh, R-Dist. 23**

**Major Actions:** 27 March 2018- Kavanagh “Strike Everything” amendment adopted changing this bill into a bill on post-traumatic stress disorder treatments described above. Given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation 10-0. Not heard in Senate Rules Committee.

**HCR 2002-** state militia; age requirement

Under Arizona’s Constitution, the State Militia consists of “all capable citizens of the state between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years.” This would ask voters to amend that to “all capable citizens of this state who are at least eighteen years of age and who are capable of acting in concert for the common defense”. Basically, it does away with the upper age limit for people capable of fighting.

**Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. David Stringer, R-Dist. 1

**Major Actions:** 18 Jan 2018- First Read and assigned to House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee (MVRA) and House Rules Committee. 26 Feb 2018- Passed House 35-24-1 not voting and transmitted to the Senate. 1 March 2018-First Read in Senate and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 27 March 2018- Given a “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Committee of the Whole. Not Third Read in Senate.