



AMVETS-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

The Legislature adjourned for the 2017 legislative year on September 15. They will return in January. During the last days of the 2017 legislative year, hundreds of bills were sent to the Governor. The Governor had until October 15 to sign or veto those bills. This is a report of the status of all of the bills we tracked on your behalf that were sent to the Governor in 2017.

This year we supported, opposed, or watched and followed over 80 veterans and military bills. Of those bills, 36 made it all the way through the process to the Governor's desk. 31 of them were signed into law and 5 were vetoed. Many of the bills that did not make it to the Governor's desk are 2-year bills that will either pass or die in January 2018.

❖ **To access the Legislature's website which has the language, status, votes, and analyses of all legislation from 1999 to the present, go to:**

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

❖ If you have any questions, please contact:

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VETERANS LEGISLATION SENT TO THE GOVERNOR IN 2017

- AB 94 **AUTHOR:** Rodriguez [D]
TITLE: Corporation Tax Law: Exemption: Veteran's Organizations
SUMMARY: This bill would additionally authorize an organization described in Section 501(c)(19), which is a veteran's organization, to use that method to obtain such an exemption.
Position: Watch
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 153 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Military Fraud
SUMMARY: This bill modifies the language of the California Stolen Valor Act to conform to the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2013.
Position: Sponsor
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 172 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Public Postsecondary Education: Residency: Dependents
SUMMARY: This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those

costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 226

AUTHOR: Cervantes [D]

TITLE: Teacher Credentialing: Spouses of Active Duty Members

SUMMARY: This bill would require the commission to grant or deny a completed application for a credential within 7 days of the date that the commission received the application if the applicant supplies the commission with evidence that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and holds a valid teaching credential in another state, district, or territory of the United States. The bill would exempt an application subject to a designated fitness review from this requirement.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 242

AUTHOR: Arambula [D] and Patterson [R]

TITLE: Certificates of Death: Veterans

SUMMARY: Requires a certificate of death to indicate whether the deceased person was a member of the Armed Forces so that the Department of Public Health may compile data on veteran suicides.

Position: Sponsor

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 265

AUTHOR: Wood [D]

TITLE: Prescription Drugs: Prohibition on Price Discount

SUMMARY: AB 265 prohibits a person who manufactures a prescription drug from offering any discount, repayment, product voucher, or other reduction in an individual's out-of-pocket expenses, including a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible, for any prescription drug if a lower cost generic drug is covered under the individual's health insurance or health care service plan on a lower cost-sharing. Many veterans are not covered by the VA and are facing high cost-sharing and prohibitive tiering for their prescriptions. Coupons and copayment assistance programs are valuable tools for veterans and their families. Many patients must now meet a deductible before their medicines are covered.

Position: Oppose

Status: Signed by Governor

AB 296

AUTHOR: Cervantes [D]

TITLE: Task Force: Health of Women Veterans

SUMMARY: This bill would, until July 1, 2023, require the department to create a task force to study the health of California women veterans comprised of members with specified qualifications. The bill would prohibit task force members from receiving compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their service. The bill would require the task force to study the health care needs of women veterans in the state, as specified. The bill would also require the task force to submit 2 reports to the Governor and the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature that includes the task force's findings and recommendations. The bill would require the task force, when conducting its study and preparing its reports, to consult with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Department of Public Health, the Department of Managed Health Care, and representatives of county veterans service offices.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

- AB 331 **AUTHOR:** Eggman [D]
TITLE: Military Personnel: Veterans: Resentencing
SUMMARY: Military discharge documentation; requires a county recorder, upon request by a military veteran, or authorized person, for recordation of a military discharge document, including the DD214, to record the document and maintain the document in a nonpublic index. Permits only the military veteran or authorized person to receive a copy of the recorded document contained in the nonpublic index.
Position: Watch
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 360 **AUTHOR:** Muratsuchi [D]
TITLE: State Bar: Pro Bono Legal Assistance: Veterans
SUMMARY: This bill would require the State Bar of California to administer a program to coordinate pro bono civil legal assistance to veterans and their families who otherwise cannot afford legal services. The bill would also require the State Bar to provide resources and educational materials to attorneys and the public by, among other things, compiling a list of local bar associations, legal aid organizations, veterans service providers, and volunteer attorneys willing to provide pro bono legal services to veterans and posting the list on its Internet Web site, and by conducting a statewide survey of programs that provide civil legal assistance to veterans in order to identify whether and where there is a need for legal advice clinics, publishing a report and recommendations based upon its findings, and posting the report on its Internet Web site.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 363 **AUTHOR:** Quirk Silva [D]
TITLE: Driver's licenses: veteran designation.
SUMMARY: Prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from charging the one-time \$5 fee to a person applying for a driver's license or identification card with a veteran designation if the applicant is eligible to obtain an original or replacement card at a reduced fee or is homeless and can verify his or her status as such.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by Governor
- AB 365 **AUTHOR:** Muratsuchi [D]
TITLE: Pupil instruction: coursework and graduation requirements: children of military families.
SUMMARY: This bill extends to students from military families certain rights regarding exemptions from local graduation requirements and acceptance of partial credit which are currently afforded to other groups of highly mobile students.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 376 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Veteran's Benefits: Veteran Farmers or Ranchers
SUMMARY: This bill would, by July 1, 2018, require the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Farm Service Agency, and other federal agencies as needed, to identify and post specified information to assist veterans in entering farming or ranching careers.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor

- AB 547 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: California Prompt Payment Act: Disabled Veterans
SUMMARY: This bill would require state agencies to pay an undisputed invoice from a certified disabled veteran business enterprise that is also a small business, as defined, within 30 days of initial receipt. The bill would require a state agency to submit a claim on an undisputed invoice to the Controller for payment within 15 calendar days of the agency's receipt. If an agency fails to submit a correct claim schedule within 15 days of receiving an invoice.
Position: Support
Status: Vetoed by Governor
- AB 671 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Veterans: Services
SUMMARY: This bill would additionally authorize a veteran's memorial district to provide funding to providers of supportive services that improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, including, but not limited to, counseling, case management, and employment training and placement, as provided.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 866 **AUTHOR:** Cunningham [R]
TITLE: State Highways: Gateway Monuments
SUMMARY: This bill would authorize a city or county to display the Flag of the United States of America or the Flag of the State of California, or both, as part of a gateway monument, as defined.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 961 **AUTHOR:** Quirk Silva [D]
TITLE: Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program
SUMMARY: This bill would require an awarding department to maintain all records of the information provided by the prime contractor pursuant to those provisions and to retain the records for a minimum of 6 years after collection. The bill would establish appropriate review procedures for those records to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the award amounts and paid amounts reported.
Position: Watch
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
- AB 1249 **AUTHOR:** Gray [D]
TITLE: Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans Organizations
SUMMARY: This bill provides that assessors can't deny the welfare exemption on property owned by veterans' organizations used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes. This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.
Position: Support
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
- AB 1269 **AUTHOR:** Stone [D]
TITLE: Mobilehome Residents and Senior Protection Act
SUMMARY When a veteran, who is often times also a senior, is confronted with discrimination in the workplace or housing, they file claims with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. DFEH currently cannot adjudicate the volume of claims in a timely manner and the department is continually underfunded. We are concerned that these additional complaints, duties and responsibilities would further exacerbate the delays and backlog at DFEH and further delay legitimate complaints by military members and veterans. In addition, without adequate funding, these additional duties

would take funding away from DFEH's core mission: which is charged with upholding California's robust civil rights laws.

Position: Oppose
Status: Vetoed by the Governor

- AB 1365 **AUTHOR:** Reyes [D]
TITLE: Veterans Homes: Planning Strategy
SUMMARY: This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs, on or before February 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to submit to the Legislature and post on its Internet Web site a specified financial report of the veterans homes located in Barstow, Chula Vista, Fresno, Lancaster, Redding, Ventura, West Los Angeles, and Yountville. The bill would further require the department to review the use of a veterans home, using specified factors, no later than 5 years before the expiration of a specified use restriction imposed by federal law to determine the best continued, unrestricted use of the veterans home. The bill would require the department, every 5 years after the date of the expiration of the use restriction, to review the veterans home, using specified factors, to determine its best continued use.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 1403 **AUTHOR:** Obernolte [R]
TITLE: Military and Overseas Voters
SUMMARY: Authorizes a military or overseas voter to apply in person to the elections official for permission to register if he or she is released from services after the closing date of registration for an election, has returned to the county of his or her residence, and is not a registered voter. Allows a military or overseas voter who is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date of registration to apply in person after the closing date of registration
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 1618 **AUTHOR:** Cervantes [D]
TITLE: Veteran Service Providers
SUMMARY: This bill would establish a certification process for California veteran service providers, as defined, applying for the competitive grants. The bill would require an applicant for certification to provide specified information to the department upon application and, after certification, on request and reasonable notice by the department.
Position: Watch
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 1710 **AUTHOR:** Veterans Affairs Committee
TITLE: Prohibited Discrimination Against Service Members
SUMMARY: Conforms state law to the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) by protecting service members from hostile work environments in their civilian jobs.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- AB 1711 **AUTHOR:** Veterans Affairs Committee
TITLE: State Military Reserve Personnel: Leave Benefits
SUMMARY: Would provide that a member of the State Military Reserve be granted military leave and other specified benefits on the same basis as a member of the National Guard or other military reserve member.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor

- SB 3 **AUTHOR:** Beall [D]
TITLE: Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018
SUMMARY: Enacts the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018. Authorizes the issuance of bonds of a specified amount to be used to finance various existing housing programs, as well as infill infrastructure financing and affordable housing matching grant programs. Provides for additional funding of a specified amount for farm purchase, home purchase, and mobilehome purchase assistance for veterans.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 96 **AUTHOR:** Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
TITLE: State Government
SUMMARY: Makes changes dealing with Vet homes, and updates the Military and Veteran Code.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 156 **AUTHOR:** Anderson [R]
TITLE: Military and Veterans: Transition Assistance
SUMMARY: This bill requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and California National Guard (CNG) to provide specified assistance to military-affiliated noncitizens, as specified, to help them acquire United States citizenship.
Position: Sponsor
Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 266 **AUTHOR:** Dodd [D]
TITLE: Armed Service Members: Consumer Loans
SUMMARY: Updates provisions of the Banking Law, Credit Union Law, California Finance Lenders Law, and Deferred Deposit Transaction Law to reflect new federal lending rules applicable to members of the military and their dependents. This will update specified provisions of California law that require adherence to specified provisions of federal law regarding lending to members of the military and their dependents. Updating these provisions is intended to ensure that the California Department of Business Oversight has the authority to enforce violations of these federal rules by state-regulated lenders as if those violations were violations of the state lenders' licensing laws.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 330 **AUTHOR:** Berryhill [R]
TITLE: Building Permit Fees: Waiver
SUMMARY: This bill would authorize these entities to waive or reduce all building permit fees for improvements to the home of a veteran with a qualifying disability that are made to accommodate that disability.
Position: Support
Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 339 **AUTHOR:** Roth [D]
TITLE: Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Assessment
SUMMARY: This bill would require the Judicial Council, if certain funding is provided, to report to the Legislature, on or before June 1, 2020, on a study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment, as specified, of

veterans treatment courts currently in operation and a survey of counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts that identifies barriers to program implementation and assesses the need for veterans treatment courts in those counties. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2021.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 410 **AUTHOR:** Nguyen [R]

TITLE: Civil Service: Veterans' Hiring Preference

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize the Department of Human Resources or the designated appointing authority, in order to facilitate a request for veterans' preference from a currently serving active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, to use a signed document by the applicant's commanding officer of the military to verify that applicant's military service. The bill would require the department or designated authority, before the applicant enters state service with the benefit of veterans' preference, to otherwise require the same proof of eligibility for veterans' preference generally used.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 455 **AUTHOR:** Newman [D]

TITLE: Pupil Enrollment: Military Dependents

SUMMARY: This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 725 **AUTHOR:** Jackson [D]

TITLE: Veterans: Pretrial Diversion: Driving Privileges

SUMMARY: Specifies that a misdemeanor offense for which a defendant may be placed in a pretrial diversion program includes a misdemeanor violation of driving under the influence or driving under the influence and causing bodily injury

Position: Sponsor

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 728 **AUTHOR:** Newman [D]

TITLE: State Public Employees: Sick Leave: Veterans

SUMMARY: This bill would grant a state officer or employee who serves as a member of the National Guard or federal military reserve force who is called up to active service and as a result sustains a service connected disability rated at 30% or more by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs an additional credit for sick leave with pay of up to 96 hours for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment, including mental health treatment, for his or her service connected disability. The bill would require that the sick leave be credited to a qualifying officer or employee on the effective date of the employee's disability rating decision from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or on the first day that the qualifying employee begins, or returns to, employment after active duty, whichever is later, and remain available for use for the following 12 months of employment.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 731 **AUTHOR:** Newman [D]

TITLE: Public School Employees: Veteran Leave of Absence

SUMMARY: The bill would require credit for leave of absence under this provision to be credited to a qualifying classified employee on the effective date of the employee's disability rating decision from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or on the first day the qualifying classified employee begins, or returns to, employment after active duty, whichever is later, except under specified circumstances when provisions authorizing alternative leave arrangements would be applicable.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 747 **AUTHOR:** Newman [D]

TITLE: State Military: Officer Commissions

SUMMARY: This bill would delete that circumstance, thereby authorizing the continuation of the commission of an officer when he or she has a permanent change of residence outside of this state. The bill would permit an officer residing outside of the state to transfer to the National Guard of any other state or territory or to a federal military reserve component, as specified. The bill would prohibit the state from granting a transfer if certain provisions apply, including, but not limited to, when the officer is under investigation or mobilized for deployment.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 776 **AUTHOR:** Newman [D]

TITLE: Corrections: Veterans' Benefits

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide one employee for every 5 state prisons, who is trained and accredited by the department, to assist incarcerated veterans in applying for and receiving any federal or other veterans' benefits for which they or their families may be eligible. The bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to give the Department of Veterans Affairs' employees access to the hardware, software, and those computer networks as are reasonably necessary to perform their duties while at the prison, while taking all necessary safety precautions. The bill would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to cooperate and collaborate to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs' employees have the greatest access and effectiveness practicable, while taking all necessary safety precautions, in order to assist veterans incarcerated within the state prisons.

Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor

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