Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs

2013

Summary of Legislation

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BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR AND ENACTED RESOLUTIONS:

ASSEMBLY BILLS:

AB 150 (Olsen) **Chapter 688, Statues of 2013**

State parks: armed services: fee waiver.

Authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to offer veterans and active duty or reserve military personnel of the United States (U.S) Armed Forces or the National Guard, free day use access, or reduced fee access, to California state parks on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

AB 244 (Bonilla) **Chapter 690, Statutes of 2013**

Vehicles: license plates: veterans.

Requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to sponsor a veterans' special interest license plate and requires the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue the veterans' plate if CalVet meets the current statutory requirements.

AB 258 (Chávez) **Chapter 227, Statutes of 2013**

State agencies: veterans.

Requires, on or after July 1, 2014, every state agency that requests on any written form or written publication, or through its Internet Web site, whether a person is a veteran, to request that information in a specified manner.

AB 287 (Frazier) **Chapter 289, Statutes of 2013**

Vietnam veterans' memorial: update.

Requires, until January 1, 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to annually compile a list of names of Vietnam veterans to be added to the Memorial, as specified and requires CalVet to form a committee to review and consider requests from the public to include names on the Memorial. Also authorizes the names on the list to be added to the Memorial if specified requirements are met, including that adequate private funding is available.

AB 372 (Eggman) **Chapter 75, Statutes of 2013**

Civil service: veterans' preference in hiring.

Deletes current provisions granting veterans' preference points in specified state civil service examinations and instead requires that whenever any veteran, widow or widower of a veteran, or spouse of a 100% disabled veteran achieves a passing score on an entrance examination, he/she will be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligibility list.

AB 409 (Quirk-Silva) **Chapter 643, Statutes of 2013**

Political Reform Act of 1974: statements of economic interests: online filing.

Permits the Fair Political Practices Commission to develop and operate its own online system for filing Statements of Economic Interests which must enable a filer to comply with all relevant requirements, as specified.

AB 526 (Melendez) **Chapter 236, Statutes of 2013**

Military service: benefits.

Extends to a larger class of military reservists the enhanced financial protections currently offered only to service members ordered to active duty as part of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. It also adds utility bills to the list of financial obligations subject to statutory deferment.

AB 557 (Yamada) **Chapter 134, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans' homes: accounting of charges.

Requires a veterans' home resident's quarterly statement or accounting to specify that the home may use the deceased veteran's money or personal property that is outside the home for payment of unreimbursed costs of care. Also requires the quarterly statement or accounting and any notice relating to quarterly statements posted in any veterans' home to be in 14-point font or larger.

AB 639 (John A. Pérez) **Chapter 727, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014: Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014.

Authorizes the issuance of $600 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable multifamily supportive housing, affordable multifamily transitional housing, or related facilities for veterans and their families - if approved by the voters at the June, 2014, General Election.

AB 704 (Blumenfield) **Vetoed**

Emergency medical services: military experience.

Requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to develop and adopt regulations to accept the education, training and practical experience that an applicant received as a member of the armed forces toward the qualifications and requirements for certification as an EMT-I or EMT-II, or licensure as an EMT-P.

AB 717 (Chávez) **Chapter 692, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans.

Requires the California Veterans Board (Board) to serve as an advisory body to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans of Affairs and the department, and eliminates certain qualifications to be a member of the Board, and requires every Board member to be a member in good standing with a congressionally chartered veteran service organization. Requires CalVet to respond to the Board regarding the Board's proposed policy changes, prior to the Board's next scheduled meeting. This bill also deletes specified reporting requirements of the Board and requires the CalVet Secretary and the Board to seek to confer with the California State Commanders Veterans Council at least twice per calendar year on issues affecting California veterans.

AB 1410 (Committee on Veterans Affairs) **Chapter 322, Statutes of 2013**

Courts-Martial Appellate Panel.

Establishes the Courts-Martial Appellate Panel. The panel would consist of 3 justices to be appointed by the Governor. The bill would require a justice to sit on the panel for a 4-year term or until his or her resignation. The bill would authorize the panel to be convened by the President of the United States, the Governor, or the Adjutant General. Under the bill, the panel would have power over the issuance of extraordinary writs relative to specified matters and adjudicating appeals of sentences of a court-martial. The bill would require precedential decisions of the Courts-Martial Appellate Panel to be posted in a conspicuous place. Because the establishment of a military court imposes new responsibilities on a local agency jail, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

ACR 36 (Atkins) **Res. Chapter 39, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans: treatment courts and treatment review calendars.

Encourages all superior courts to consider establishing veterans treatment courts or veterans treatment review calendars to assist troubled veterans who have service-related mental health issues.

AJR 19 (Pan) **Res. Chapter 154, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans' benefits.

Urges Congress and the President to provide benefits, including applicable spousal benefits, to those veterans discriminated against solely on the basis of their sexual orientation.

SENATE BILLS

SB 106 (Monning) **Chapter 41, Statutes of 2013**

California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord Endowment Fund.

Provides the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) statutory authorization to enter into a financial agreement to receive cash advances into the Endowment Fund, contingent upon that agreement not requiring the state to repay or make payments on cash advances. This bill requires CalVet to develop and submit a State Veterans Cemetery Grant Program application to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for the establishment of a veterans cemetery upon the determination of the State Controller, after consultation with the Secretary of CalVet (Secretary). This bill specifies that if the Secretary or CalVet fails to submit a grant application to the Program, if USDVA denies the grant application, or if the grant funding is not received for any other reason, requires any amounts donated, received, or deposited to the Fund by specified entities to be refunded.

SB 290 (Knight, Walters) **Chapter 696, Statutes of 2013**

Nonresident tuition exemption: veterans.

Exempts a California Community Colleges (CCC) student, or a California State University (CSU) undergraduate student, from paying nonresident tuition if that student was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged if he/she files an affidavit with the institution at which he/she is enrolled or intends to enroll, stating that he/she intends to establish residency in California as soon as possible, and uses this exemption within two years of being discharged. This bill requests the University of California to also adopt the same policy as the CCC and CSU.

SB 720 (Correa) **Chapter 220, Statutes of 2013**

Military service: benefits.

Extends the enhanced protections currently offered only to service members ordered to active duty as part of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including protection from having to pay interest on the accumulated principal or interest of a deferred financial obligation, to all federal military reservists and California National Guard service members ordered to active duty. This bill also incorporates specific safeguards afforded to financial institutions under other deferment statutes to financial obligations deferred by service members under these enhanced protections.

SB 723 (Correa) **Enrolled**

Veterans.

Requires the Employment Development Department (EDD), and the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), on or before January 1, 2015, to jointly present a report to the Legislature containing best practices by state governments around the nation in facilitating the credentialing of veterans by using their documented military education and experience.

SB 725 (Anderson) **Chapter 697, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans buildings and memorials: county and city property: veterans service organizations: nonprofit veteran service agencies: retrofit and remodel.

Expands the types of local governments that cannot revoke the dedication of a specified veterans' facility to include a city, or city and county. This bill would also provide that a property is not considered abandoned if the veterans association, veterans service organization, or nonprofit veteran service agency is required to move from the property in order for the property to undergo seismic retrofitting or remodeling.

SB 815 (Committee on Veterans Affairs) **Chapter 186, Statutes of 2013**

Veterans.

This bill corrects technical errors and outdated California Military and Veterans Code (MVC) references.

BILLS IN LEGISLATURE:

The following bills, if enacted would do the following:

ASSEMBLY BILLS:

AB 13 (Chávez)
Nonresident tuition exemption: veterans
Authorizes the California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC) to exempt from paying nonresident tuition a student or prospective student of their respective segments who is a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who has been discharged from active duty, and who is using, or is intending to use, "GI Bill" education benefits, as specified.
In Senate Committee on Appropriations: Do Pass as Amended. Read second time and amended. Ordered to third reading. Read third time and amended. Ordered to second reading. Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

AB 171 (Chávez)
Department of Veterans Affairs: consolidation of services to veterans.
Establishes the California Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of coordinating and administering veterans assistance programs in the state.
In Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

AB 213 (Logue)
Healing arts: licensure and certification requirements: military experience.
Requires, by January 1, 2015, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and healing arts boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA boards) to undertake activities intended to facilitate the transition of military veterans to civilian careers as health care professionals.
In Assembly Appropriations Committee: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file. In committee: Set, second hearing. Held under submission.

AB 269 (Grove and Patterson)
Vote by mail ballots: military or overseas voters.
Allows the vote by mail (VBM) ballot of a military or overseas voter to arrive up to three days after the election and still be counted, provided that the ballot is postmarked by the United States Postal Service or the Military Postal Service Agency on or before election day.
Referred to Senate Committee on Elections & Constitutional Amendments. In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

AB 296 (Wagner)
Attorneys.
Authorizes a person who is an active member in good standing of the bar of another state or United States jurisdiction, possession, or territory to apply and be eligible for a provisional license to practice law in California if the applicant meets certain requirements, including, among others, supplying evidence satisfactory to the State Bar that he or she 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 California under official active duty military orders. Require an applicant to take the first general bar examination or Attorneys' Examination, as specified, administered after the date the active duty member must report to a duty station in the state, except as provided. Require the provisional licenseholder to abide by all the laws, rules, and regulations that govern fully licensed members of the State Bar and would also subject him or her to the same duties, responsibilities, and obligations and confer the same rights and benefits, as fully licensed members of the State Bar, except as provided.
Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

AB 315 (Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs)
State parks: veteran of war: Purple Heart recipient.
Adds Purple Heart recipients to those who are eligible for a Distinguished Veteran Pass. This pass allows the bearer to use all basic facilities (including day use and camping) in California State Park operated units at no charge. It is not valid at units operated by local government, private agencies or concessionaires. It is not valid for group use or sites, special events, commercial use, or for supplemental fees and cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass and/or discount.
From Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: to consent calendar. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. In committee: Held under submission. In committee: Placed on APPR. suspense file.

AB 614 (Chávez)
Veterans' homes of California: financial investigation.
Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to "investigate" a veteran's financial status to ensure the veteran is unable to pay for hospital or home care prior to the veteran's admission to a veterans' home. Current law authorizes such investigation but does not require it.
In Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

AB 705 (Blumenfield)
Combat to Care Act.
Requires the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), in conjunction with the California Military Department, to promulgate regulations that identify the military education, training, and experience equivalent or transferable to coursework required for licensure as a registered nurse (RN). Upon receipt of an applicant's record of education, training, and experience completed in the Armed Forces, the BRN shall provide the applicant with a list of coursework, if any, that the applicant must complete for license eligibility.
In committee on Appropriations: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file. In committee: Set, second hearing. Held under submission.

AB 1093 (Grove)
Veterans: student financial aid.
Reinstate these provisions and request that the Adjutant General also make available additional information, as specified, regarding federal Montgomery GI Bill benefits and contact information for veterans' educational assistance.
Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and V.A. Re-referred to Coms. on V.A. and HIGHER ED. pursuant to Assembly Rule 96. No hearing date assigned.

AB 1124 (Muratsuchi)
Medi-Cal: Public Assistance Reporting Information System.
Requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to utilize the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health care benefits statewide instead of as a two-year pilot program in three counties and repeals provisions relating to a two-year, three county pilot project including the requirement to monitor and evaluate for outcome and savings.
Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and V.A. In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. Referred to Com. on HEALTH. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.

AB 1268 (John A. Pérez)
Unemployment insurance: veterans' unemployment: Veterans Workforce Development and Employment Office.
Establishes the Veterans Workforce Development and Employment Office within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency for the purpose of coordinating veterans' workforce services.
In committee: Placed on APPR. suspense file. From committee: Do pass. Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Ordered to special consent calendar. From special consent calendar. Ordered to third reading. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Padilla.

AB 1397 (Committee on Veterans Affairs)
California National Guard and United States Military Reserve: employment protections.
Changes the frequency of reporting by the Adjutant General. Specifically, this bill requires the report of the Adjutant General to the Governor on the spending and activities of the Military Department to be made annually beginning July 1, 2014.
In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. Referred to Com. on V.A. In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on V.A.

SENATE BILLS:

SB 237 (Calderon)
High school diplomas: retroactive high school diplomas: veterans.
Expands the pool of veterans who may receive a retroactive high school diploma to include people who served in the military after the Vietnam War.
From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on V.A. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 12). Re-referred to Com. on V.A. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

SB 354 (Roth, Correa)
Department of Veterans Affairs: monitoring outcomes for veterans: Director of Employment Development: disclosure of information.
Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to develop outcome and related indicators for veterans, for the purpose of assessing the status of veterans in California, for monitoring the quality of programs intended to serve those veterans, and to guide decision making on how to improve those services.
In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk. Referred to Coms. on V.A. and L. & E. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

SB 719 (Correa)
Department of Veterans Affairs: California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program reports.
Requires an awarding department under the program that uses the Financial Information System for California (FISCal) to, commencing with the first reporting period after the implementation of the FISCal system at the awarding department, report its statewide participation goals for disabled veteran business enterprises in the overall dollar amount expended each year by the awarding department to the Department of General Services.
Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file. Set, second hearing. Held in committee and under submission.

SB 733 (Block)
State contracts: disabled veteran business enterprise statewide participation goals: business utilization plan value.
Deletes provisions of law allowing an awarding department to accept submission of a disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) utilization plan to meet the 3% statewide participation goal for DVBE awarded contracts.
In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk. Referred to Coms. on J., E.D., & E. and V.A. Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.