

2015

2015 Summary of Legislation

Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs

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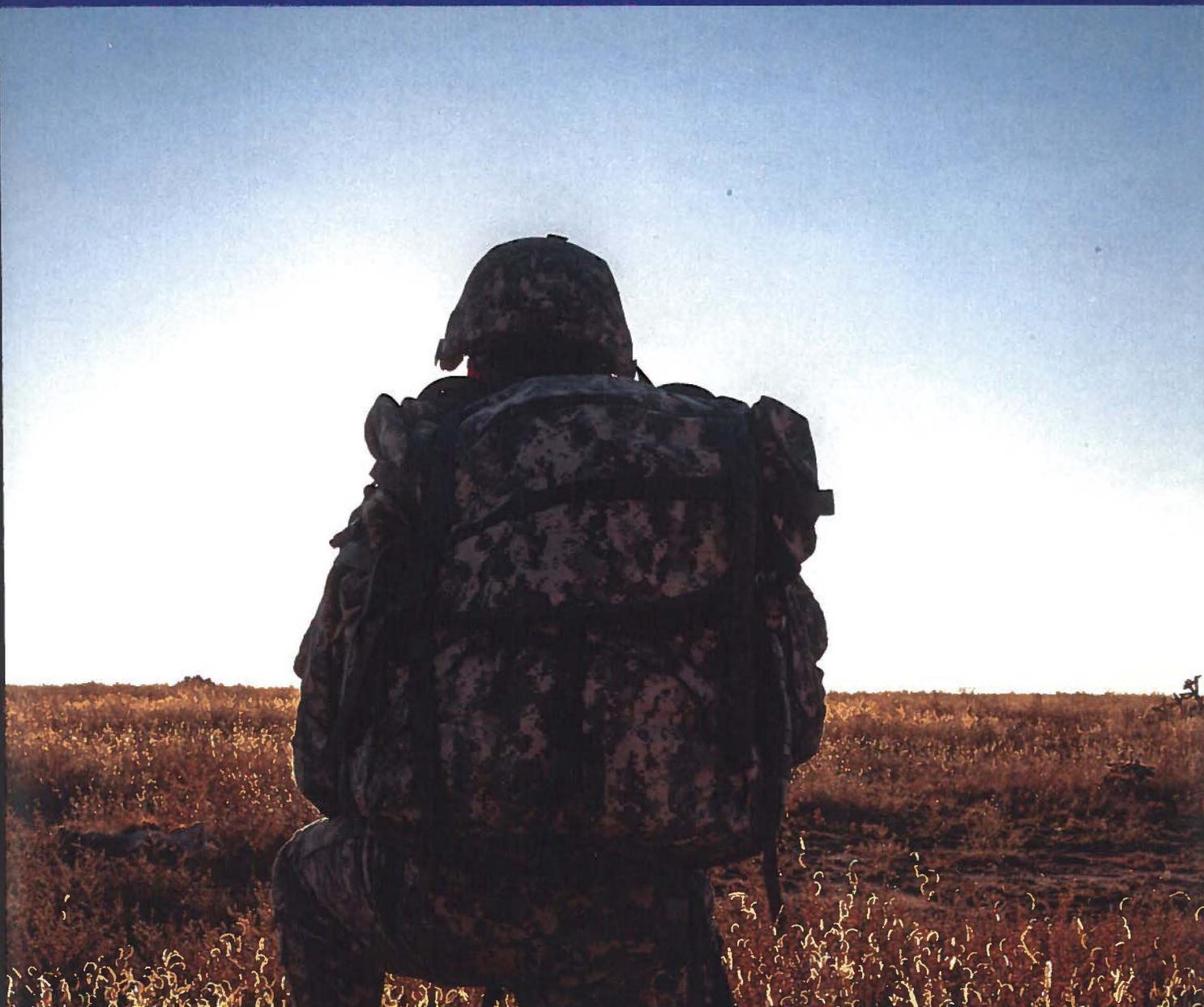
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Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs



2015 Summary of Legislation

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Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs 2015 Legislative Summary

BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR AND ENACTED RESOLUTIONS:

ASSEMBLY BILLS:

AB 388 (Chang)

Chapter 692, Statutes of 2015

Housing: veterans: supportive and transitional housing: reports.

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs to include specified information relating to the effectiveness of the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention (VHHP) Bond Act of 2014 in an annual report, including information relating to the effectiveness of assisted projects in helping veterans occupying any supportive housing or transitional housing development that was issued funds pursuant to the VHHP.

AB 442 (Irwin)

Chapter 298, Statutes of 2015

Governor's Military Council.

Codifies the Governor's Military Council, under the direction of the California Military Department; provides for appointment to the Council by the Governor; requires the appointments to include, but not be limited to, bipartisan representatives from both houses of the Legislature; and self-repeals on January 1, 2021.

AB 583 (Chávez)

Chapter 183, Statutes of 2015

Military service: employment protections.

Extends existing employment and reemployment protections to members of national guards of other states, when they must leave positions of private employment within California, due to having been called onto active state service by other states' Governors or onto active federal service by the President of the United States.

AB 1401 (Baker)

Chapter 254, Statutes of 2015

Veterans: student financial aid.

Requests the Office of the Adjutant General to provide specified assistance regarding higher education to members of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, and Naval Militia, who do not have a baccalaureate degree.

ACR 36 (Gray)

Res. Chapter 199, Statutes of 2015

California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Recognizes the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers for helping veterans secure their federal and state benefits over the past 70 years.

AJR 7 (Mathis)

Res. Chapter 122, Statutes of 2015

Veterans: first businesses.

Requests that the Congress of the United States of America further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available, with all appropriate safeguards, to all veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses.

AJR 11 (Burke, Atkins)

Res. Chapter 68, Statutes of 2015

Military bases: closures.

Memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to recognize the unique military value of California's defense installations and the disproportionate sacrifices California endured in previous base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds.

SENATE BILLS

SB 193 (Committee on Veterans Affairs)

Chapter 533, Statutes of 2015

The State Militia.

Cleans up portions of the Military and Veterans Code by deleting outdated references to federal executive orders and statutes (which the State borrows to define military law for the active state militia), and by adding updated references to federal law.

SB 221 (Jackson)

Chapter 794, Statutes of 2015

State public employees; sick leave: veterans with service-related disabilities.

The "California Wounded Warriors Transitional Leave Act" permits state employees, who are military veterans with service-connected disabilities, to receive 96 hours of additional sick leave dedicated to health care treatment of those disabilities.

SB 536 (Roth)

Chapter 355, Statutes of 2015

Armories.

Allows the Department of General Services with the approval of the Adjutant General of the California Military Department to sell seven specified armory properties and sets terms for how the costs of the sales will be paid. These locations are: the Azusa-Orange Armory, the Brawley Armory, the Indio Armory, the Lynwood Armory, Pomona Park Armory, the Santa Barbara Armory, and the Yreka Armory.

SCR 50 (Nielsen)

Chapter 161, Statutes of 2015

World War II Remembrance Month.

Urges the Governor to proclaim the month of June 2015 as World War II Remembrance Month, and call upon all Californians to observe the 70th anniversary of the end of the War.

BILLS IN LEGISLATURE:

The following bills, if enacted would do the following:

ASSEMBLY BILLS:

AB 13 (Chávez)

Public postsecondary education: community colleges: exemptions from nonresident tuition.

Exempts from the California Community College nonresident student fees those veterans living in California and covered under the federal Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act), and authorizes California Community Colleges to claim state apportionment funding for these students enrolled on or after July 1, 2015.

In Senate Committee on Education.

AB 27 (Chávez)

Public postsecondary education: exemptions from nonresident tuition.

Requires the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and requests the University of California, by July 1, 2015, to adopt tuition policies ensuring participation of eligible veterans and their dependents in GI Bill education benefits and providing conformity with the federal Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act).

In Senate Education Committee: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on ED. In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

AB 75 (Mathis)

Veterans.

Continuously appropriates \$3 million General Fund, each fiscal year, to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of funding 36 Veteran Claims Representative positions to ensure the quality and timeliness of claims filed through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of California veterans and their families.

In Assembly Appropriations Committee: In committee: Held under submission.

AB 171 (Irwin)

Department of Veterans Affairs: veterans' services.

Modifies the formula by which the Department of Veterans Affairs allocates state funds to county veterans service officers based upon performance standards that encourage innovation and reward outstanding service, and adds reporting requirements to help determine how effectively and efficiently state funds are being spent.

From Senate Appropriations Committee: Amend, and do pass as amended. Read second time and amended. Ordered to third reading. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Nielsen.

AB 240 (Wilk)

Department of Parks and Recreation: free day use entry.

Requires that vehicles with the following valid specialty license plates be allowed free day use entry to all units of the state park system: Pearl Harbor Survivor , Legion of Valor, Former Prisoner of War, Congressional Medal of Honor , Purple Heart Veteran, and Gold Star Family.

In Senate Appropriations Committee: In committee: Held under submission.

AB 255 (Irwin)

Veterans: Internal Audits for Veterans Affairs.

Creates the office of Internal Audits for Veterans Affairs within the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

In Assembly Appropriations Committee: In committee: Held under submission.

AB 393 (Roger Hernández)

Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program.

Establishes a grant program to support California Community Colleges (CCC) veterans' resource centers. Specifically, this bill requires the Chancellor of the CCC to develop and administer the grant program. Community college districts may apply for grants for existing or planned centers to provide assistance to veterans and active duty Armed Forces members to help them succeed academically. This bill provides that the program requirements may include funding priority to campuses providing matching funds, stipulates that funding for the program is subject to appropriation by the Legislature, and requires the Chancellor to provide a progress report to the Legislature regarding the program by May 31, 2018.

In committee on Appropriations: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file. In committee: Held under submission.

AB 421 (Calderon)

Community colleges: veterans counselor.

Requires every community college district governing board to provide each of its colleges having 200 or more enrolled student veterans with a veterans' counselor. The bill also requires the California Community College Board of Governors to adopt regulations establishing minimum qualifications for a veterans' counselor, and in doing so to consider specified requirements.

In committee on Appropriations: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file. In committee: Held under submission.

AB 659 (Mathis)

Inspector General for Veterans Affairs.

Creates the office of Inspector General for Veterans Affairs, who would be subject to the direction of the Governor, within the department. The bill would require the inspector general to be appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation. The inspector general would be responsible for reviewing the operations and financial condition of each California veterans home, each veterans farm and home purchase program, and all other veterans programs supported by the state. Beginning January 1, 2017, and each year after, the bill would require the inspector general to submit a report to the board and the Legislature and make any recommendations he or she deems necessary for improving the operations of the veterans' programs. The bill would repeal the reporting requirement on January 1, 2020.

Referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs. No hearing date assigned.

AB 930 (Irwin, Atkins)

Work for Warriors programs.

Codifies the authorization for the existing Work for Warriors (WFW) program, which provides direct placement job services to unemployed and underemployed military service members, veterans, graduates of state military youth programs, military families, and other related populations in California.

From committee: Do pass. Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Monning.

AB 1029 (Frazier)

Veterans: service providers.

Creates a program to certify organizations that provide specified services to military veterans and their families.

From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

AB 1530 (Levine, Gordon)

Electricity: distributed generation.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the State Air Resources Board, to promote the deployment of clean distributed energy resources, as defined, in order to provide a stable and reliable supply of electricity.

From inactive file. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Nielsen. Ordered to second reading. Read second time. 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. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10(c).

SENATE BILLS:

SB 159 (Nielsen)

California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program: goal achievement.

Clarifies that an awarding department's Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) program participation goal achievement is to be measured by the overall dollar amount expended each year by the awarding department.

From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on V.A. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

SB 543 (Wolk)

Veterans: Veterans' Home of California.

Creates a single system-wide Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund (MWR) for the Veterans Home of California system that consolidates existing and future MWR moneys generated by individual veterans home campuses, and establishes procedures for and restrictions on the budgeting and spending of moneys in the Fund.

Referred to Com. on V.A. From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

