

CURRENT STATUS OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION BEING TRACKED FOR AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

By Pete Conaty, Legislative Advocate

The State Legislature is on Summer Recess from July 1 to July 31. July 1 was also the last day for bills to be heard in the second house policy committees. When the Legislature reconvenes on August 1, the bills that are still alive will begin to be heard in the Appropriations committees. August 12 is the last day for a bill to make it past the Appropriations committees. From August 15 until August 31 the bills that survived the fiscal committees will be heard on the floors of their respective houses.

This 30-day period of time gets very hectic because all surviving legislation is funneling through a few locations at once. Legislation can also be amended on the floor, special hearings can be heard off the floor with a moment's notice, and bills can be gutted and amended to some entirely new subject. All of these proceedings must be carefully monitored.

Bills that pass through this process by August 31 will proceed to the Governor for his approval or veto. The Governor has until September 30 to complete this process. This period of time is also when lobbyists actively lobby and educate the Governor's staff on the merits or negative aspects of the legislation on his desk.

To access all California legislation from 1999 to present; bill text, amendments, votes, analyses, and status; go to:

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/the_state_legislature/bill_information/bill_information.html

If you have any suggestions for new legislation for the 2017-18 legislative session, please contact Don Harper.

For more information on American Legion-Department of California's legislative advocacy, contact:

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CURRENTLY ACTIVE LEGISLATION

CA AB 171	AUTHOR:	Irwin [D]
	TITLE:	Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Services
	LOCATION:	Senate Inactive File
	SUMMARY:	Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop an allocation formula based upon performance standards that encourage innovation and reward outstanding service by county veterans' service officers. Requires those funds to be allocated in accordance with that formula. Requires an annual report on the impact of the subvention funds on each county that receives those funds. Deletes obsolete provisions. Makes conforming changes.
	Position:	Watch

CA AB 930 **AUTHOR:** Irwin [D]
TITLE: Work for Warriors Program
LOCATION: Senate Inactive File
SUMMARY:
Authorizes the State Military Department to establish a Work for Warriors program, to provide direct placement job services to service members, veterans, and military families, and other related populations. Authorizes the Department to accept federal funding to supplement the program, and to adopt regulations, rules, and guidelines as are necessary to implement the program.
Position: Support

CA AB 1029 **AUTHOR:** Frazier [D]
TITLE: Veterans: Service Providers
COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee
HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am
SUMMARY:
Allows entities meeting specified requirements to apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs to become certified veterans service providers. Requires the Department to maintain a list of such providers on its Internet Web site, including the type of supportive services provided. Provides a validity time period for certification. Requires the Department to adopt rules, procedures, and regulations as necessary to decertify an entity that no longer meets certification requirements. Requires a related fee.
Position: Support

CA AB 1278 **AUTHOR:** Gray [D]
TITLE: Cigarettes and Tobacco Products: Identification
LOCATION: Senate Inactive File
SUMMARY:
Provides that, for the purposes of buying tobacco products requirements, if a customer or recipient provides an identification card issued by the United States Armed Forces as proof of age and the identification card lacks a physical description, but includes date of birth and a photo, further proof of age is not required.
Position: Support

CA AB 1672 **AUTHOR:** Mathis [R]
TITLE: Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Survey
COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee
HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am
SUMMARY:
Requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on a study of veterans and veteran's treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment of such courts currently in operation and a survey of courts that do not operate such courts that identifies barriers to program implementation and assesses the need for such courts' establishment in those counties. Creates a related fund to fund the survey and its

related report. Makes an appropriation therefor.

Position: Support

CA AB 1706

AUTHOR: Chavez [R]

TITLE: Military Fraud

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires specified elected officers to forfeit office upon the conviction of a crime pursuant to the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2013 or the Stolen Valor Act that involves a fraudulent claim, made with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit that the person is a veteran or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as prescribed in those acts. Imposes a misdemeanor for such actions only if accomplished for stated beneficial purposes, or false documents for a stated benefit.

Position: Support

CA AB 1844

AUTHOR: Gallagher [R]

TITLE: Hunting and Fishing Licenses: Reduced Fees: Veterans

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to reduce the fee required to obtain lifetime hunting and sport fishing licenses by a specified percentage for a person who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, was honorably discharged, and is a resident of the State.

Position: Support

CA AB 1936

AUTHOR: Chavez [R]

TITLE: Public Postsecondary Education

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Extends the resident classification for designated dependents of transferred and retired members of the Armed Forces of the United States to those dependents who have been admitted to a public postsecondary institution before the transfer or retirement. Requests the Regents of the University of California to establish the same residency benefits as those established by this bill for students enrolled at the University of California.

Position: Support

CA AB 1972

AUTHOR: Chau [D]

TITLE: Veterans: State Park Passes

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all park facilities in the state park system to any veteran who meets specified criteria. Requires the Department to report in its proposed budget on revenue losses

with regard to the issuance of free veterans passes under these provisions.

Position: Support

CA AB 2085

AUTHOR: Irwin [D]

TITLE: Military and Veterans

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Creates the Office of Military Legal Assistance within the Military Department to assist current service members who require legal assistance by providing access to educational and informational resources and providing referral services to available legal assistance programs, including reduced fee services, pro bono services, and self-help services. Authorizes the areas of legal services assistance the Office may provide.

Position: Watch

CA AB 2128

AUTHOR: Achadjian [R]

TITLE: Marriage

LOCATION: Assembly Unfinished Business - Concurrence in Senate Amendments

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that allows a member of the Armed Force of the United States who is stationed overseas and serving in a conflict or a war and is unable to appear for the license and solemnization of the marriage to enter into that marriage by the appearance of an attorney in fact. Provides that the completion of the power of attorney is the sole determinant as to whether the county clerk's office or State Registrar will accept the power of attorney.

Position: Watch

CA AB 2254

AUTHOR: Achadjian [R]

TITLE: Armories: Homeless Shelter

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Revises the list of armories to be made available for providing temporary shelter for homeless persons to include the Atascadero armory in San Luis Obispo County.

Position: Support

CA AB 2273

AUTHOR: Irwin [D]

TITLE: Military Law: Suicide

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Prohibits a member of the active militia, including the National Guard, from being prosecuted for a military crime based on an attempt to kill himself or herself.

Requires the Adjutant General to ensure that any member of the active militia that attempts to kill himself or herself is referred to the Behavioral Health Liaison

Program to receive assistance, counseling, or referral to other appropriate available services.

Position: Support

CA AB 2494

AUTHOR: Hernandez R [D]

TITLE: Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Establishes the Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program, which would authorize the governing board of a community college district and a community college campus to apply for a grant for purposes of providing resources to veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces enrolled at the campus. Establishes a related fund to be disbursed for the administration of the program and awards to community college districts and campuses.

Position: Support

CA AB 2561

AUTHOR: Veterans Affairs Cmt

TITLE: Veterans Cemeteries

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Establishes the State Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Project Donation Fund. Requires that donations for the cemetery for a purpose specified by the donor instead be deposited in the fund, and be expended for the specific veterans cemetery maintenance or beautification project designated by the donor.

Position: Watch

CA AB 2562

AUTHOR: Veterans Affairs Cmt

TITLE: Military Service: Benefits

LOCATION: Senate Third Reading File

SUMMARY:

Relates to military service benefits. Deletes references to the date a reservist is called to active duty, both the definition of a reservist and payment deferral provisions, thereby making benefits available to any reservist who otherwise meets the definition.

Position: Support

CA AB 2563

AUTHOR: Veterans Affairs Cmt

TITLE: Veterans: Service Advocate: Correctional Facility

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am

SUMMARY:

Relates to veterans, service advocates and correctional facilities. Revises the definition of a veteran by deleting the reference to the American Red Cross and including a person who has been discharged from the National Guard of any state.

Position: Support

CA AB 2574 **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Veteran Farmers and Ranchers
LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:
Requires specified State departments to develop a New Veterans Farmer and Rancher Outreach and Assistance Plan to disseminate information to veterans in the State agricultural education, training, and other related assistance programs. Authorizes other public and private sector resources to be included in that dissemination.
Position: Support

CA AJR 33 **AUTHOR:** Bonilla [D]
TITLE: Port Chicago Disaster: Sailors of the U.S. Navy
LOCATION: To enrollment
SUMMARY:
Urges the recognition that the trial and conviction of African American sailors of the U.S. Navy for mutiny in connection with their service at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California, during World War II were wrongfully pursued because of racial prejudice. Urges the Congress to publicly exonerate those African American sailors in order to further aid in healing the racial divide that continues to exist in the United States.
Position: Support

CA SB 15 **AUTHOR:** Block [D]
TITLE: Postsecondary Education: Aid: Incentive Grants
LOCATION: Assembly Higher Education Committee
SUMMARY:
Increases the total number of Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards granted annually and increases the maximum tuition award amount for Cal Grant A and B for students at private nonprofit postsecondary institutions for the 2015-16 award year and each award year thereafter. Establishes the Graduation Incentive Grant Award. Provides matriculating undergraduate students at the California State University with a specified maximum number of college years of aid. Requires an annual report on the program.
Position: Support

CA SB 159 **AUTHOR:** Nielsen [R]
TITLE: Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise: Goal Achievement
LOCATION: Assembly Third Reading File
SUMMARY:
Amends the State Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program. Specifies that an awarding department's goal under the Program, and statewide total of those goals be measured in a specified manner.
Position: Support

CA SB 294 **AUTHOR:** Pan [D]

TITLE: Public Employment: Military Service

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System to adopt a form to be used by a member to receive credit for his or her military service. Requires employers to inform the member of his or her rights within a certain number of days of the member's return to state service by utilizing that form. Requires an employer to provide a letter or electronic communication to all employees informing them of their right to receive such credit.

Position: Support

CA SB 384

AUTHOR: Leyva [D]

TITLE: Veterans Housing: Multifamily: Underserved Veterans

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires, for all multifamily housing units acquired, constructed, rehabilitated or preserved under the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act for the purpose of housing veterans, that a percentage of the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014 bond funds be used for purposes of the Act be reserved for housing for underserved veterans; requires the percentage of the bond act funds to be determined by specified State agencies.

Position: Support

CA SB 543

AUTHOR: Wolk [D]

TITLE: Veterans: Veteran's Home of California

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that establishes Veteran's Home of California at various sites. Provides for an administrator for each home or homesite. Defines a home and an administrator. Clarifies that veterans' homes include the Veteran's Homes of California located in specified areas and any future home that is established. Requires each home to establish a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Operating Fund to administer quality of life activities for the general welfare of residents; relates to funding such fund.

Position: Neutral

CA SB 866

AUTHOR: Roth [D]

TITLE: Veterans Housing

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Authorizes a housing developer or service provider that provides housing or services pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014, to provide housing or services to veterans and their children in women-only facilities in limited instances.

Position: Support

CA SB 905

AUTHOR: Bates [R]

TITLE: Alcoholic Beverage Control: Club Licenses

LOCATION: Assembly Consent Calendar

SUMMARY:

Defines a club for purposes of the qualification for a on-premises liquor license for members of a club and their guests. Includes a nonprofit umbrella organization established to provide a central meeting location, and services for veterans, including those on active duty, and that owns or leases, operates, and maintains a facility for these purposes. Requires the organization to serve a minimum number of veteran organizations.

Position: Support

CA SB 980

AUTHOR: Nielsen [R]

TITLE: Veterans' Homes

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Provides that the administrator is the senior executive appointed to oversee the operations of a veterans' home. Specifies which veterans homes are administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt uniform statewide policies and procedures, for the operations of those veterans homes. Updates admission criteria. Requires an electronic medical records system for such homes. Relates to the setting of related fees.

Position: Support

CA SB 1012

AUTHOR: Nguyen [R]

TITLE: Flags: Purchase

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires any Flag of the United State or the Flag of the State purchased by the State or any local government agency be made in the United States.

Position: Support

CA SB 1059

AUTHOR: Monning [D]

TITLE: Postsecondary Education: Title 38 Awards

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Relates to the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education. Includes as a qualifying institution for federal Title 38 awards, an institution that has been accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners, if the institution complies with specified disclosure and compliance requirements.

Position: Watch

CA SB 1155

AUTHOR: Morrell [R]

TITLE: Professions and Vocations: Licenses: Military

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires every board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to grant a fee waiver for the application for and the issuance of an initial license to an applicant

who supplies satisfactory evidence that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the State National Guard or the United States Armed Forces and was honorably discharged. Requires a veteran be granted only one fee waiver. Provides an exception.

Position: Watch

CA SB 1180

AUTHOR: Jackson [D]

TITLE: Public School Employees: Military Veterans

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires that a certificated or classified employee who is a military veteran with a specified military service-connected disability rating be entitled to a specified number of days leave of absence with pay for the purpose of undergoing disability-related medical treatment.

Position: Watch

CA SB 1227

AUTHOR: Lara [D]

TITLE: California Conservation Corps

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the California Conservation Corps to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department to assist any corps member who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, in obtaining employment after participating in the corps program. Provides that such collaboration efforts shall include, but not limited to, veterans supportive services and workforce services, respectively.

Position: Support

CA SB 1314

AUTHOR: Block [D]

TITLE: Cal Grant Program: Scholarship: Community College

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Provides that community college students participating in specified baccalaureate degree programs who also satisfy specified eligibility requirements shall receive awards for upper division coursework fee. Extends awards under the Middle Class Scholarship Program to community college students enrolled in upper division coursework of a baccalaureate degree program. Requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to provide any financial data necessary for award determination.

Position: Support

CA SB 1348

AUTHOR: Cannella [R]

TITLE: Licensure Applications: Military Experience

LOCATION: Assembly Consent Calendar

SUMMARY:

Requires each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs with a governing

law authorizing veterans to apply military experience and training towards licensure requirements to post information on the board's Internet Web site about the ability of veteran applicants to apply their military experience and training towards licensure requirements.

Position: Watch

CA SB 1455

AUTHOR: Block [D]

TITLE: Pupil Enrollment: Military Dependents

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Provides that a pupil complies with a school district's residency requirements for school attendance in a school district if he or she is a pupil whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the boundaries of the district while on active military duty pursuant to an official documentation. Requires a school district to accept applications by electronic means for enrollment and course registration for those pupils.

Position: Watch

CA SB 1458

AUTHOR: Bates [R]

TITLE: Property Taxation: Exemptions: Disabled Veterans

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends an existing property tax law which provides a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran or a veteran's spouse. Expands that definition of veteran to include a person who has been discharged in other than dishonorable conditions from service under certain conditions and who has been determined to be eligible for federal veterans' health and medical benefits. Provides time periods regarding the disabled veterans' exemption.

Position: Support

CA SR 69

AUTHOR: Glazer [D]

TITLE: Port Chicago Disaster

LOCATION: Adopted

SUMMARY:

Urges the President and the Congress to take action all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the U.S. Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster, which occurred in the town of Port Chicago, California, in 1944.

Position: Watch