

# AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REEB GOVT RELATIONS, LLC

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### **AB 411** (Irwin D) Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2022.

**Status:** 5/5/2022-Action rescinded whereby the bill was referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/5/2022-S. HOUSING

**Summary:** Existing law, the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014 (the 2014 bond act), authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$600,000,000, as specified, for expenditure by the California Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide housing to veterans and their families pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014 (VHHPA). This bill would enact the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2022 to authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$600,000,000 to provide additional funding for the VHHPA. The bill would provide for the handling and disposition of the funds in the same manner as the 2014 bond act. This bill contains other related provisions.

Position

Support

### **AB 1595** (Quirk-Silva D) Veterans cemetery: County of Orange.

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Current law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange at one of 2 possible sites, as specified. Existing law requires the department to, after completing acquisition studies on both sites, consult with the Department of General Services to determine which site to pursue based on the economic feasibility, benefits to veterans and City of Irvine residents, and availability of each location. Current law makes honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and dependent children eligible for interment in the cemetery, as specified. This bill would delete those site selection requirements and would instead require the department to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange.

Position

Support

### **AB 1600** (Nguyen R) California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial.

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time and amended. Ordered returned to second reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. SECOND READING

**Summary:** Would, until January 1, 2029, establish the California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial in state government to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. The bill would require the commission to plan and coordinate commemorations and observances of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. The bill would require the commission to be solely supported by private or federal funds made available for the purpose of supporting the commission. The bill would require that these funds be deposited in the

Semiquincentennial Fund, and would create that fund in the State Treasury. The bill would require funds in the Semiquincentennial Fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as specified. The bill would require the records, files, and other memoranda of the commission, other than any private possessions, to be deposited and filed with the State Archives before January 1, 2029, and would require the State Archives to receive those materials.

Position

Support

[AB 1623](#) **(Ramos D) Personal income taxes: exclusion: uniformed services retirement pay: survivor benefit plan payments.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Joint Rule 62(a), file notice suspended. In committee: Held under submission. **Bill is dead.**

**Location:** 5/18/2022-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2033, exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2023, would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

Position

Support

[AB 1692](#) **(Voepel R) Veterans: mental health.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** The Department of Veterans Affairs, among other services, provides veterans and their dependents and survivors with assistance in processing service-related disability claims, assistance in obtaining affordable housing, and information about health ailments associated with military service. This bill would require the department to establish a program to fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California, as specified. The bill would require the department to submit a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2024.

Position

Support

[AB 1731](#) **(Davies R) Postsecondary education: Title 38 awards: postsecondary educational institutions: application for approval or renewal.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Current law establishes the Title 38 award program, which provides student financial aid to military veterans under the administration of the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE). Current law requires an institution headquartered or operating in California desiring to enroll students eligible for federal Title 38 awards to apply for approval of its courses to CSAAVE, and authorizes CSAAVE to approve the application of the school when the school and its courses satisfy specified criteria and any additional reasonable criteria established by CSAAVE. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2024, CSAAVE to establish regulations requiring postsecondary educational institutions to provide specified information to CSAAVE as part of an application for approval or renewal.

Position

Support

[AB 1762](#) **(Mathis R) State Capitol: Gold Star Families monument.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 72. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To

Com. on RLS. for assignment.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-S. RLS.

**Summary:** Would authorize a nonprofit organization representing Gold Star Families, in consultation with the Department of General Services, to plan, construct, and maintain a monument to the Gold Star Families of California on the grounds of the State Capitol. The bill would require the nonprofit organization to submit a plan for the monument to the Joint Rules Committee for its review and approval. The bill would require the monument to be funded exclusively from private sources.

Position

Support

**AB 1828 (Chen R) CalFresh: income eligibility: basic allowance for housing.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Would require the State Department of Social Services, on or before July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, to submit a request for a federal waiver to exclude the basic allowance for housing provided to specified uniformed service members from countable income in the determination of eligibility and benefit level for purposes of receiving CalFresh benefits. The bill would, upon federal approval of the waiver, require the department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, advocates for CalFresh recipients, and the Military Department, to issue an all-county letter instructing counties on updated eligibility requirements and benefit calculations for uniformed service members receiving a basic allowance for housing. To the extent the bill would expand the duties of counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Position

Support

**AB 2032 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Ending Military and Veteran Suicide Task Force.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Joint Rule 62(a), file notice suspended. From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Would require the State Department of Public Health to establish an Ending Military and Veteran Suicide Task Force within the Office of Suicide Prevention to systematically reduce military and veteran suicides and to develop a plan to eliminate all military and veteran suicides in the state, as specified. Commencing June 1, 2024, the bill would require the task force to submit a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of veteran suicide prevention, as specified, including, among other things, an analysis of the plans, activities, strategies, and programs undertaken pursuant to the task force's recommendations and their effects on reducing military and veteran suicides in the state.

Position

Support

**AB 2105 (Smith R) Contractors: initial license fee reduction: veterans.**

**Status:** 5/18/2022-Referred to Coms. on B., P. & E.D. and M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/18/2022-S. B., P. & E.D.

**Summary:** Current law requires a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to expedite, and authorizes a board to assist in, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged. Current law, the Contractors State License Law, provides for the licensing and regulation of contractors by the Contractors State License Board, which is within the department. Current law authorizes the board to set fees by regulation, according to a prescribed schedule. This bill would require the board to grant a 50% fee reduction for an initial license to an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a veteran who has served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the California National Guard and was honorably discharged.

Position

Support

[AB 2949](#) **(Lee D) Vehicles: toll exemptions.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Joint Rule 62(a), file notice suspended. From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Under current law, a person who enters a vehicular crossing becomes liable for any tolls imposed. Current law prescribes the means by which a toll may be collected or paid, including by the use of an electronic transponder or by means of capturing a license plate number and billing the registered owner. Current law prohibits a person from evading, or attempting to evade, the payment of tolls on any vehicular crossing or toll highway. A violation of this prohibition is subject to civil penalties, but it is not a crime. This bill would exempt vehicles registered to a veteran and displaying a specialized veterans license plate, as specified, from payment of a toll or related fines on a toll road, toll bridge, toll highway, a vehicular crossing, or any other toll facility, except a high-occupancy toll lane.

Position

Support

[AB 2952](#) **(Gabriel D) Driver's licenses: veteran designation.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-In committee: Held under submission. **Bill is dead.**

**Location:** 5/11/2022-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would allow an applicant for a driver's license or identification card, who served for another country in military operations that supported the United States during the Vietnam War and later became a naturalized citizen, to request a "NON-US VIETNAM VETERAN" designation on their driver's license or identification card, subject to certain requirements, including verification of military service for a foreign country during the Vietnam War and payment of a \$5 fee, which the department is authorized to increase by regulation, in an amount not to exceed \$15, as specified. This bill would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the proof necessary to verify an applicant's veteran status.

Position

Oppose

[ACR 121](#) **(Sevarto R) Purple Heart Day.**

**Status:** 1/14/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

**Location:** 1/14/2022-A. RLS.

**Summary:** Would declare August 7, 2022, as Purple Heart Day in California.

Position

Support

[AJR 10](#) **(Choi R) Veterans cemeteries: Republic of Korea and Republic of Vietnam veterans.**

**Location:** Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs

**Position:** support

[SB 43](#) **(Umberg D) Veterans cemetery: County of Orange.**

**Status:** 5/3/2022-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 1/6/2022-A. M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange at one of 2 possible sites, as specified. Current law requires the department to, after completing acquisition studies on both sites, consult with the Department of General Services to determine which site to pursue based on the economic feasibility, benefits to veterans and City of Irvine residents, and availability of each location. Current law makes honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and dependent children eligible for interment in the cemetery, as specified. This bill

would delete those site selection requirements and would instead require the department to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange.

Position

Watch

**SB 837**    **(Umburg D)    Driver's licenses: veteran designation.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-S. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Current law allows an in-person applicant for a driver's license or identification card to request the word "VETERAN" be printed on the face of the driver's license or identification card, subject to certain requirements, including, among others, verification of veteran status, as specified, and payment of a \$5 fee, which the department is authorized to increase by regulation, in an amount not to exceed \$15, as specified. Current law prohibits a fee from being charged for that request if made by a person who has been determined to have a current income level that meets the eligibility requirements for specified assistance programs, or a person who can verify their status as a homeless person, in accordance with specified provisions. This bill would repeal the requirement that an applicant pay the above-described fee.

Position

Support

**SB 949**    **(Laird D)    Veterans: California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to design, develop, and construct the state-owned and state-operated California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord and to oversee and coordinate the design, development, construction, and equipping of the veterans cemetery. Current law establishes the California Coast State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord Endowment Fund, to be allocated, upon appropriation, to the department for nonreimbursable costs of design, construction, and annual operation of the veterans cemetery. Current law requires the Controller, after consultation with the department, to annually report on the status of the Endowment Fund, as specified. This bill would remove the requirement that the Controller annually report on the status of the Endowment Fund. The bill would additionally remove obsolete provisions regarding the construction of the cemetery.

Position

Support

**SB 1073**    **(Grove R)    Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-May 19 hearing: Held in committee and under submission. **Bill is dead.**

**Location:** 5/9/2022-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would, for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2023, additionally provide a partial exemption for property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran who is partially disabled, as defined, or the veteran's spouse or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, under these provisions. The bill would require that the amount of partial exemption provided be the percentage of the full amount of exemption, as described above, equivalent to the partially disabled veteran's disability rating percentage by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, as applicable. By adding to the duties of local tax officials in administering the disabled veterans' property tax exemption, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Position

Support

**SB 1193 (Newman D) Department of Motor Vehicles: electronic notifications and transactions.**

**Status:** 5/12/2022-Referred to Com. on TRANS.

**Location:** 5/12/2022-A. TRANS.

**Summary:** Would, among other things, for a provision of the Vehicle Code or of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations that requires the DMV to mail, notify, deliver via certified or first class mail, provide information in written form, or otherwise references the use of paper, a writing, or the mail to convey information to a person, authorize that requirement to be satisfied by electronic notification, if certain conditions are established by the DMV, including that the person consented to the electronic receipt of the document or information delivered. The bill would authorize the DMV to adopt regulations to implement these provisions, and would make conforming changes.

Position

Support

**SB 1195 (Grove R) Veterans homes.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to review the use of each veterans home no later than 5 years before the expiration of the use restriction imposed on the home by federal law to determine the best continued use of the home. In making that determination, current law requires the department to review, among other things, the current needs of the regional veteran population. When the department reviews the use of each home, this bill would require the department to assess, among other things, the potential for the Veterans Health Administration to place satellite medical clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus, to serve both residents of the veteran homes and nonresident veterans in the communities where state veteran homes are located. The bill would require the department to meet and confer with officials of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on the possibility of locating satellite clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus.

Position

Support

**SB 1237 (Newman D) Licenses: military service.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Referred to Coms. on B. & P. and M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. B.&P.

**Summary:** Current law provides for the regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs and for the licensure or registration of individuals in that regard. Current law authorizes any licensee or registrant whose license expired while the licensee or registrant was on active duty as a member of the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces to reinstate the licensee's or registrant's license without examination or penalty if certain requirements are met. Current law requires the boards described above, with certain exceptions, to waive the renewal fees, continuing education requirements, and other renewal requirements as determined by the board, if any are applicable, of any licensee or registrant who is called to active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces or the California National Guard if certain requirements are met. Current law, except as specified, prohibits a licensee or registrant from engaging in any activities requiring a license while a waiver is in effect. This bill would define the phrase "called to active duty" to include active duty in the United States Armed Forces and on duty in the California National Guard, as specified.

Position

Support

**SB 1311 (Eggman D) Veterans: protections.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass as amended. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time and amended. Ordered to second reading. (Amended Text Released 5/20/2022)

**Location:** 5/19/2022-S. SECOND READING

**Summary:** Current law establishes a statutory cause of action for unfair competition, including any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising. Current law requires a person

who engages or proposes to engage in unfair competition to be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500, per violation, which is assessed and recovered in an action brought by certain public officials, including the Attorney General. This bill, the Military and Veteran Consumer Protection Act of 2022, would make a person who violates those provisions, if the violation is perpetrated against one or more service members or veterans, liable for an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation, as specified.

Position

Support

**SB 1357 (Archuleta D) Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (May 19). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-S. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Would exempt from taxation property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, if the veteran is 100% disabled. The bill would provide a partial property exemption, as described, for those properties if the veteran is blind in both eyes or has lost the use of 2 or more limbs and has a disability rating of less than 100%. The bill would provide an unmarried surviving spouse a property exemption in the same amount that they would have been entitled to if the veteran was alive and if certain conditions are met. The bill would require certain documentation to be provided to the county assessor to receive the exemption and would prohibit any other real property tax exemption from being granted to the claimant if receiving the exemption provided by the provisions of this bill. The bill would make these exemptions applicable for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2023.

Position

Support

**SB 1435 (Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs) Veteran home use: reporting.**

**Status:** 5/19/2022-Referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 5/19/2022-A. M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law establishes veterans homes in the State of California, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Current law requires the department to review the use of each home no later than 5 years before the expiration of the use restriction imposed on the home by federal law to determine the best continued, unrestricted use of the home. Current law also requires the department to conduct the same review 5 years after the date of the expiration of the use restriction imposed by federal law on a home and to update that review every 5 years. This bill would require the department to review the homes on a specified schedule and to update the report every 5 years.

Position

Support