

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS

SERVICE OFFICERS

MARCH 21, 2019

KEY LEGISLATION



THE 2019-20 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS STILL GETTING UNDERWAY AND MANY MORE VETERANS BILLS ARE CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED TO DETERMINE A POSITION. THE SCOPE AND QUANTITY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY RELATED BILLS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA WHO SERVE OR HAVE SERVED IN OUR NATION'S MILITARY.

ALL BILLS BELOW ARE SUPPORTED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

SPONSORED BILLS:

AB 408-FRAZIER (D-DISCOVERY BAY): DISABLED VETERANS LICENSE PLATES

SUMMARY: Would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept a certificate from a county veterans service officer or the Department of Veterans Affairs that certifies that the applicant for a special license plate or placard is a disabled veteran. The bill would change the definition of "disabled veteran" to instead refer to a veteran who has a combined service-connected disability rating of 100% or is rated permanently and totally disabled based on individual unemployability by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosis or diagnoses that substantially impair or interfere with mobility.

SUPPORTED BILLS:

AB 55-E. GARCIA (D-COACHELLA): INCREASE STATE FUNDING TO COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

SUMMARY: Increase state local assistance funding to County Veterans Service Officers from the current \$5.6 million to \$11 million.

AB 160-VOEPEL (R-SANTEE): VOLUNTARY VETERANS' PREFERENCE EMPLOYMENT POLICY

SUMMARY: Would enact the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans' preference employment policy to give a voluntary preference for hiring or retaining a veteran.

AB 427-BROUGH (R-DANA POINT): MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY; TAX EXEMPTION

SUMMARY: Would exempt military retirement pay from state income tax for veterans who are residents in California. To offset initial revenue loss to the state, the implementation of exempting full retirement pay would be tiered for each retiree.

AB 581-LEVINE (D-MARIN COUNTY): VETERANS SENTENCING: MENTAL HEALTH

SUMMARY: Allows a veteran to petition the court if Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and other service-induced mental health problems were not diagnosed or evident at the time of sentencing.

AB 1257-SALAS (D-BAKERSFIELD): SALES AND USE TAXES: EXEMPTION: ADAPTIVE AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT: DISABLED VETERAN OR MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.

SUMMARY: Would exempt add-on automotive adaptive equipment from sales tax when sold to any disabled veteran or active duty service member in the state of California. The bill would apply to any veteran or member of the U S Armed Forces serving on active duty who is disabled, regardless of whether the disability is service connected.

AB 1258-SALAS (D-BAKERSFIELD): INCOME TAX EXEMPTION; MILITARY AND VETERANS

SUMMARY: Seeks to exempt all income tax received by active duty servicemembers while on active duty in the state and all income for their cumulative time of active duty after being honorably discharged. AB 1258 would apply to the active duty service from the United States Armed Forces, the Reserves, or the National Guard who have been honorably discharged.

AB 1588- (GLORIA D) DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

SUMMARY: Would Ensure military veterans transitioning into civilian water and wastewater operator occupations receive appropriate crediting for experience and education gained during military service.

SB 222-HILL (D-SAN MATEO): DISCRIMINATION: VETERAN AND MILITARY STATUS

SUMMARY: Would protect veterans and military personnel from housing discrimination and ensure that landlords cannot deny homeless veterans housing based solely on the fact that they receive a HUD / VA rental assistance voucher.

SB 562-MORRELL (R-RANCHO CUCAMONGA): DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

SUMMARY: Would increase property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, in order to keep up with the rising cost of housing in California. The Basic exemption would be increased from \$134,706 to \$200,000 and the Low-Income exemption would increase from \$202,060 to \$250,000. Both rates would keep up with inflation moving forward. These exemptions are only available to veterans with a 100% disability rating, blind veterans, and veterans missing two or more limbs.

SB 663- JONES (R-SANTEE): VETERANS' ORGANIZATION'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

SUMMARY: Extends the property tax exemption afforded to veteran organizations to include the portion of their veterans halls used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes. These locations often play a role in helping military personnel adjust back to civilian life. While an auditorium may appear to be for fraternal, lodge, or social purposes to tax officials; it may be a key part of readjustment services to a returning soldier.

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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