LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES REPORT
Veterans Bills – Signed into law or vetoed in 2015

CACVSO sponsored, supported, or watched bills listed below. In total, CACVSO supported or watched 83 bills this year.

This list includes the bills that were signed into law or vetoed by the Governor in 2015.

The exceptions on this list are AB 1275 by Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced) and SB 2 by Senator Joel Anderson (R-San Diego). Both bills died in committee.

**AB 82 - Garcia**
**TITLE:** Vehicles: Driver's License: Selective Service
**SUMMARY:** Permits a person who is required to register under the federal Military Selective Service Act to consent to registration with the System by affirming his consent to that registration as a specified location on his application for a driver's license. Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to include specified notices on an original driver's license application and to forward the necessary personal information to the System in an electronic format.
**STATUS:** Vetoed by the Governor.
**THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED:** Young men who failed to register with the Selective Service. This bill would have made this registration possible during the driver’s license process. Not registering with the Selective Service System makes men ineligible for specific education benefits, financial aid, federal grants, loans, etc.
**CACVSO Position:** Support

**AB 306 - Hadley**
**TITLE:** Attendance: Children of Military Personnel
**SUMMARY:** Prohibits a school district of residence from prohibiting the transfer of a pupil who is a child of an active military duty parent to a school in any school district, if the district to which the parents of the pupil applies approves the application for transfer.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** Children of active duty military.
**CACVSO Position:** Support

**AB 388 – Chang**
**TITLE:** Housing: Veterans: Supportive and Transitional Housing
**SUMMARY:** Revises an existing law which requires a certain report on operations and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year of certain housing programs, and which requires the report to include an evaluation of programs established pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act. Requires the evaluation to include information relating to the effectiveness of assisted projects in helping veterans occupying supportive housing or transitional housing developments.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** Those veterans who are on the brink of becoming homeless as well as those impoverished veterans already residing in homelessness.
**CACVSO Position:** Support
AB 413 – Chavez
TITLE: Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Program
SUMMARY: Clarifies the scope and purpose of the provision regarding a child or spouse of a disabled veteran who was a majority owner of the DVBE.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Families of disabled veteran business owners.
CACVSO Position: Support

AB 442 – Irwin
TITLE: Governor’s Military Council.
SUMMARY: Codifies the Governor’s Military Council, under the direction of the State Military Department. This Council was originally initiated by the Governor to address the federal base closure process and to lessen its impact on California.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: It will help to keep our military bases in California in case there is another round of base closures. This bill will help all Californians.
CACVSO Position: WATCH

AB 583 - Chavez
TITLE: Military Service: Employment Protections
SUMMARY: Extends employment protections in existing law to members of the National Guard of other states who are called to military services by their respective Governor or by the President of the United States and who have left a position in private employment in the State.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: National Guardsmen who are called to federal service.
CACVSO Position: Support

AB 778 - Maienschein
TITLE: Fees: Military Service Records
SUMMARY: Permits a county recorder to furnish a certified copy of specified military records in response to a written, faxed, or digitized image of a request accompanied by a legible notarized statement that the requester is the person who is the subject of the record, a family member or legal representative of that person, a county office that provides veterans' benefits services, or a federal official.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Veterans seeking service records.
CACVSO Position: Support

AB 931 – Irwin
TITLE: Taxation: Credit: Hiring
SUMMARY: Amends the Personal Income Tax and Corporation Tax laws which provide a credit for hiring qualified full-time employees within specified economic development areas designated as a pilot area. Revises the definition of a qualified full-time employee to include qualified veterans who separated from service within a specified time before commencement of employment with the qualified taxpayer.
STATUS: Vetoed by the Governor.
THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED: Companies seeking to hire veterans.
CACVSO: Support

AB 1275 – Gray
TITLE: Personal Income Taxes: Military Retirement Pay
SUMMARY: Excludes from gross income retirement pay received by a qualified taxpayer from the federal government for military service performed in the Armed Forces of the United States, the reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the National Guard, and survivor benefits received by a beneficiary of a qualified taxpayer from the federal government, as specified. Defines qualified taxpayer as a taxpayer who is a Purple Heart or Medal of Honor Recipient.
STATUS: Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED:** Initially the bill would have exempted military retirement pay for all retirees. To get the bill past the first committee, the author had to narrow the exemption to Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients. When the bill got to the Appropriations Committee it was held, therefore it is now dead.

CACVSO Position: Support

**AB 1361 – Burke**
**TITLE:** Student financial aid, Veterans Cal Grant Program.
**SUMMARY:** Exempts a current or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who has been honorably discharged, from the age limitations of the California Community College (CCC) Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Program.

**STATUS:** Vetoed by Governor.

**THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED:** Older veterans planning on attending college.

CACVSO Position: Support

**AB 1401 - Baker**
**TITLE:** Veterans: Student Financial Aid
**SUMMARY:** Relates to copies of the enrollment fee waiver application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid available to each member of the State National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and the Naval Militia not having a baccalaureate degree. Requests the Adjutant General include information regarding the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill and the State National Guard Education Assistance Award Program.

**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.

**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** College students who are Guardsmen.

CACVSO Position: Support

**ACR 36 - Gray**
**TITLE:** Association of County Veterans Service Officers
**SUMMARY:** Recognizes the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers for helping veterans secure their federal and State benefits.

**Status:** Chaptered by Secretary of State

**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** Raise visibility of CACVSO and the job CVSO’s do.

CACVSO Position: Sponsor

**SB 2 - Anderson**
**TITLE:** Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans' Organization
**SUMMARY:** Relates to a veterans' organization property tax exemption. Provides that the veterans' organization exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes. Provides that the exemption shall not apply to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.

**STATUS:** Died in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**WHO THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED:** Veterans posts with halls regarding property tax assessments.

CACVSO Position: Support

**SB 111 - Fuller**
**TITLE:** School Facilities: Military Installations
**SUMMARY:** Expresses the intent of the Legislature that certain assistance be provided to school districts in the 2015-16 fiscal year to meet the matching share requirement of a school construction grant made by the Office of Economic Adjustment of the federal Department of Defense to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools located on military installations. Requires the exploration of options, including loans available to districts, in meeting the federal grant matching share.

**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.

**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** School aged children of military families.

CACVSO Position: Support
SB 150 – Nguyen
TITLE: Personal Income Tax: Exclusion: Student Loan Debt
SUMMARY: Excludes from gross income, under the Personal Income Tax Law, the amount of student loan indebtedness discharged on or after a specified date and before another specified date, for an eligible individual who is granted a student loan discharge under specified conditions.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Veterans who are current/former students who had student loans discharged. More specifically, this bill helps any veterans/students who attended a Corinthian College on or before May 1, 2015 and granted a discharge of student loan.
CACVSO Position: Watch

SB 193 – Nielsen
TITLE: Veterans
SUMMARY: Amends existing law that adopts the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual for Courts-martial, as governing and applicable to the active State militia, including the State National Guard. Deletes outdated references to executive orders and statutes creating the Manual for Courts-martial and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Updates specified references. Provides that these provisions apply except as otherwise provided in the State Manual for Courts-martial or other related regulations.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Clean up outdated references from UCMJ and Manual for Courts-Martial governing the active state militia, including California State National Guard.
CACVSO Position: Watch

SB 221 - Jackson
TITLE: State Public Employees: Sick Leave: Veterans
SUMMARY: Enacts the State Wounded Warriors Transitional Leave Act. Grants a State officer or employee who is a military veteran with a minimum service-connected disability rating by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs an additional credit for sick leave with pay for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment for that disability. Prohibits the carryover of such leave beyond a specified time period. Permits submission of satisfactory proof the leave is being used for treatment of such disability.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Veterans who are new state employees.
CACVSO Position: Support

CA SB 369 - Block
TITLE: California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
SUMMARY: Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to add a reporting process within the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System requiring local educational agencies to report the enrollment of pupils of military families. Requires the State Department of Education to include pupils of military families as an indicator for specified purposes.
STATUS: Vetoed by Governor.
THIS BILL WOULD HAVE HELPED: The children of military families.
CACVSO Position: Support

SB 386 - Allen
TITLE: Unlawful Business Practices
SUMMARY: Includes as an unlawful practice prohibited under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, advertising, offering the sale, or selling a financial product or service that is illegal under State or federal law, including a cash payment for the assignment to a third party of the consumer’s right to receive future pension or veterans benefits. States an additional prohibition against advertising, offering, or entering into an agreement with a pension beneficiary that would involve an assignment of pension benefits.
STATUS: Signed by Governor.
THIS BILL WILL HELP: Will help protect military pensioners from scams.
SB 418 - Morrell
**TITLE:** California State University: Readmission
**SUMMARY:** Requires the California State University to comply with a specified federal law that provides that a student whose absence from an institution of higher education is necessitated by service in the uniformed services shall be entitled to readmission to the institution if the cumulative length of the absence does not exceed a specified number of years. Authorizes the University's Trustees to adopt regulations to implement that requirement.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** College students who get called to active service.

CACVSO Position: Support

SB 536 – Roth
**TITLE:** Armories.
**SUMMARY:** Relates to armories. Requires the net proceeds from the sale or lease of an armory to be deposited into the Armory Fund. Requires the Department of General Services to use moneys from the Property Acquisition Law Money Account for the purposes of selling armory properties. Specifies that the sale of an armory is on an as is basis, and is exempt from specified laws. Authorizes the Department Director to sell specified armories pursuant to these provisions.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** This bill will save the state and the National Guard money. The money from the sale will be used to help refurbish other armories.

CACVSO Position: Watch

SB 549 - Hall
**TITLE:** Charitable Raffles.
**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a raffle conducted by professional sports team raffles for the purpose of directly supporting specified beneficial or charitable purposes or financially supporting another private, nonprofit, eligible organization that performs those purposes if, among other requirements, each ticket sold contains a unique and matching identifier, 50% of the gross receipts generated from the sale of raffle tickets are used to benefit or provide support for beneficial or charitable purposes.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** Veterans Service Organizations who want to raise more money for the programs they have that help veterans.

CACVSO Position: No position

SB 685 - McGuire
**TITLE:** Alcoholic Beverage Service: Veterans' Club License.
**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a holder of a veterans' club license, to serve members of other Veterans Service Organizations and unaffiliated veterans and active duty and reserve military.
**STATUS:** Signed by Governor.
**THIS BILL WILL HELP:** Veterans posts and chapters that have veterans halls who want to attract new members.

CACVSO Position: Support

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