



Legislative Commission Report to
Department Executive Committee
4/9 2022

This report contains a review of veteran's legislation we went over at the last meeting and has been referred to committees,

This report includes other bills enacted into law. Also included is some new legislation that has been introduced but is still in committee.

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Synopsis of (8) Pending Illinois legislation in 2021-22 session as of 4/7/2022 (previously addressed by Legislative Commission)

Bill Status of SB0059

Amends the Department of Professional Regulation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department shall **waive all application fees and examination fees for active military personnel and their spouses**. Provides that nothing in the provisions waives the requirement that the person or spouse meet all other licensing requirements, including other fees required during the licensing process.

Bill Status of SB0091

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. **Provides that a veteran is entitled to admission to an Illinois Veterans Home if he or she has served in the National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United States and completed 20 years of satisfactory service, is otherwise eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits, and has been an Illinois resident for at least one year before applying for admission for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary care or nursing home care (currently, only domiciliary care). Effective immediately.**

Bill Status of SB0521

Amends the Raffles and Poker Runs Act. **Allows a qualified fraternal organization and a qualified veterans organization that derive their charters from a national organization to apply for a license allowing video gaming** if the proposed establishment is located in a municipality having a population of not more than 1,000,000 that has enacted an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits or a county having a population of not more than 1,000,000 that has enacted an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the unincorporated area of the county. **Allows a qualified fraternal organization and a qualified veterans organization that derive their charters from a national organization to apply for a license allowing video gaming without a license under the Liquor Control Act of 1934** if the proposed establishment is located in a municipality having a population of not more than 1,000,000 or a county having a population of not more than 1,000,000.

Bill Status of HB0163

Amends the School Code. Provides that if, at the time of enrollment, **a dependent of United States military personnel is housed in temporary housing located outside of a school district, but will be living within the district within 6 months (instead of within 60 days), the dependent must be allowed to enroll and must not be charged tuition**. Provides that United States military personnel shall provide proof within 6 months (instead of within 60 days) after the time of enrollment that the dependent will be living within the district. Effective immediately.

Bill Status of HB0390

Synopsis As Introduced

Appropriates \$200,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to be used for a \$100,000 grant to the Willing Partners Canine Education, Inc. and a \$100,000 grant to K9s for Veterans, NFP, for costs associated with service dog training for veterans. Effective July 1, 2021.

Bill Status of HB0583

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Creates an income tax credit for taxpayers who are caregivers of a veteran with a disability. Provides that the credit shall be in an amount equal to 5% of the costs incurred in caring for the veteran, not to exceed \$1,000 in credits in any taxable year. Effective immediately.

Bill Status of HB2378

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, for the 2015 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities also carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year. Provides that, for the 2021 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities also carries over to (i) the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption in the current taxable year if he or she had survived and (ii) the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected and who is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being a current recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Provides that, in the case of a surviving spouse who is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being a current recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, the property is exempt. Provides that the exemption carries over to the benefit of the veteran's adult or minor child if the child receives social security disability benefits or social security supplemental income because of a permanent disability and the veteran is deceased and the veteran's surviving spouse is deceased, remarries, or disclaims the exemption under this Section. Effective immediately.

Bill Status of HB2391

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section concerning the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, provides that: (1) for taxable years prior to 2015, "surviving spouse" means the surviving spouse of a veteran who obtained the exemption prior to his or her death; (2) for taxable years 2015 through 2020, "surviving spouse" means (A) the surviving spouse of a veteran who obtained the exemption prior to his or her death and (B) the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year; and (3) for taxable year 2021 and thereafter, "surviving spouse" means (A) the surviving spouse of a veteran who qualified for the exemption prior to his or her death, (B) the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year, (C) the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption if he or she had

survived, and (D) the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected who is a current recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Effective immediately.

Bills (7) Enacted into Law

Bill Status of HB1915 102nd General Assembly

Short Description: VEH CD-FOLD OF HONOR PLATES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Allows the issuance of Fold of Honor special license plate decals by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Provides that \$10 of each original issuance and \$23 of each renewal shall be deposited into the Folds of Honor Foundation Fund, and that \$15 of each original issuance and \$2 of each renewal shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that money in the Folds of Honor Foundation Fund shall be paid as grants to the Folds of Honor Foundation to aid in providing educational scholarships to military families. Makes a corresponding change in the State Finance Act.

Bill Status of HB1290 102nd General Assembly

Short Description: GOVERNMENT-TECH

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Statute on Statutes. Makes a technical change in a Section regarding the application of the Act.

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Statute on Statutes. Provides that in determining the meaning of any statute or rule or interpretation by the various administrative agencies of this State, for purposes of determining eligibility for any veterans benefit available from the State, the words "honorable discharge" and "honorably discharged" include a discharge under other than honorable conditions or general discharge under honorable conditions due to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity but does not include a bad conduct discharge or a dishonorable discharge.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1

Provides that the words "honorable discharge" and "honorably discharged" include a discharge other than honorable conditions or general discharge under honorable conditions if only due to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity (rather than "honorable discharge" and "honorably discharged" include a discharge other than honorable conditions or general discharge under honorable conditions due to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity).

Bill Status of HB2776 102nd General Assembly
Short Description: DFPR-MILITARY LICENSING

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that service members and their spouses may engage in the practice of their occupation or profession without being licensed in the State of Illinois, subject to outlined circumstances and limitations. Provides that each director of a department that issues an occupational or professional license shall verify that the existing license for a service member or military spouse is in good standing from any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia. Provides that if an existing license for a service member or military spouse is in good standing, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation shall waive any examination, educational, or experience requirements enabling exception to state licensure requirements. Provides that a department may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and administration of provisions regarding military license exceptions and by rule shall provide for fees for administration.

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that review and determination of an application for a professional license to a service member or his or her spouse shall be expedited by the department processing the application within 30 days (instead of 60) after the date on which the department receives all necessary documentation. Includes any required information from State and federal agencies as necessary documentation. Removes language requiring that the requirements for licensure in another state in which the service member or his or her spouse is licensed be substantially equivalent to the standards for licensure of this State. Provides instead that an application for licensure by a service member or his or her spouse must include proof that the applicant meets the requirements and standards for licensure through endorsement or reciprocity for the occupation or profession for which the applicant is applying.

Bill Status of HB3865 102nd General Assembly
Short Description: VET AFF-SERVICES DISCLOSURE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that a person or company advertising veterans' benefits appeal services must conspicuously disclose in the advertisement that such services are also offered at no cost by county veterans service officers. Provides that a person who provides veterans' benefits services in exchange for compensation shall (i) provide a written disclosure statement to each client or prospective client and (ii) obtain the client's signature on a written disclosure statement containing an attestation by the client that the client has read and understands the written disclosure statement. Directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to investigate alleged violations and to submit the results of any investigation to the Office of the Attorney General if the Department concludes that a violation has occurred. Provides that if, upon review, the Attorney General decides to file a complaint, the Attorney General must do so within 90 days of receiving the results of the Department's investigation. Imposes a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation of the amendatory Act.

House Floor Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act. Requires persons providing veteran or military benefit services to make disclosures that the benefits are available without charge. Provides that it is an unlawful practice under that Act to fail to make the required disclosure, fail to comply with fiduciary responsibilities under federal law, and to charge fees in violation of federal law.

Bill Status of SB0505 102nd General Assembly
Short Description: MILITARY CD-ACTIVE DUTY DEATH
Last Action

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Military Code of Illinois. Provides that members of the Illinois National Guard serving on State Active Duty, in addition to those serving in a federal duty or training status, shall have a State flag presented to their next of kin upon their death.

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Bill Status of SB2089 *102nd General Assembly*

Short Description: FLAGS AT STATE PARKS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Natural Resources Act. Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall fly a United States Flag, an Illinois flag, and a POW/MIA flag at all State parks.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the bill as introduced, with the following changes: (1) provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall have flags at State parks within 5 years after the effective date of the amendatory Act; and (2) provides that donations related to costs of flags and flagpoles may be made by individuals and groups to the Department's Special Projects Fund.

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Bill Status of SJR0028 *102nd General Assembly*

Short Description: MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Synopsis As Introduced

Designates the entire portion of U.S. Highway 20 in Illinois beginning at the Illinois/Iowa border and ending at the Illinois/Indiana border as the "Illinois Medal of Honor Highway".

NEW (3) LEGISLATION PENDING ACTION

Bill Status of SB3170 102nd General Assembly

Short Description: DEPT VET AFF-OUTBREAK VISITS

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
1/12/2022	Senate	Referred to Assignments

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Defines "outbreak". Provides that if a Veterans Home administrator or a member of the administrative staff is notified that an outbreak has occurred, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Public Health shall conduct an onsite visit to assess the status of the spread and determine if any additional actions can be taken to lessen exposure to the disease. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Public Health are to conduct the site visit as soon as practical, but in no event shall the visit be delayed later than the end of the next business day. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to post specific information on its website upon conducting a site visit.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
1/12/2022	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Sue Rezin
1/12/2022	Senate	First Reading
1/12/2022	Senate	Referred to Assignments
1/27/2022	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Sally J. Turner

Bill Status of HB5184 102nd General Assembly

Short Description: VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMM

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Provides that the "overseer of military veterans assistance" shall be construed to mean the commanders of the various congressionally chartered veteran service organizations, or the Superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission. Provides that funding for Veterans Assistance Commissions shall be derived from: (i) a tax levied under

the Counties Code and the Illinois Public Aid Code; (ii) funds from the county general corporate fund; and (iii) State funds from the Department of Human Services. Provides that congressionally chartered veteran service organizations and county Veterans Assistance Commissions, if applicable (rather than military veterans organizations), shall undertake the assistance of military veterans and their families.

Provides that in a county having 2 or more congressionally chartered veteran service organizations, the congressionally chartered veteran service organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance Commission that shall act as the central office for all veterans and their families and for the families of deceased veterans. Amends the Counties Code. Provides that in a county having a population of less than 3,000,000 in which there is created a County Veterans Assistance Commission, the county shall levy for assistance to military veterans and their families a tax of an amount which, when added to the unobligated balance available for such purpose at the close of the preceding fiscal year will equal .02% of the last known assessed value of the taxable property in the county. Requires County Veterans Assistance Commissions to be in charge of the administration of general assistance benefits and other public aid benefits provided under the Illinois Public Aid Code for military veterans and their families. Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants that have a County Veterans Assistance Commission to levy for assistance to military veterans and their families a tax of an amount which, when added to the unobligated balance available for such purpose at the close of the preceding fiscal year, will equal .02% of the last known assessed value of the taxable property in the county, or will equal .03% of such assessed value if such higher amount is authorized by the electors of the county.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following changes: Further amends the Counties Code. In a provision permitting a county with a Veterans Assistance Commission to impose a tax on all taxable property for the purpose of providing assistance to military veterans and their families, provides that the tax shall be separate from all other taxes which the county is authorized to levy. Provides that in counties where a Veterans Assistance Commission has been properly created, those County Veterans Assistance Commissions shall be in charge of the administration of the assistance provided under certain provisions of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Further amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Makes changes to the definition of "veteran service organization". Provides that it shall be the duty of the commander, quartermaster, or commandant (rather than the commander) of each veteran service organization to send the commander, quartermaster, or commandant (rather than the commander) of every other organization a written list of the names of all persons to whom assistance has been granted during the preceding month. Provides that in a county having 2 or more veteran service organizations, the Veterans Assistance Commission of such county may (rather than shall) act as the central service office for all veterans and their families and for the families of deceased veterans. Makes other changes.

4/6/2022	House	Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Recommends Be Adopted Veterans' Affairs Committee ; 010-000-000
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Bill Status of HB4682 102nd General Assembly

Short Description: LOTTERY-VETERAN SERVICES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Lottery Law. Provides that the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund shall make grants, fund additional services, or conduct additional research projects relating to veterans' behavioral health services (rather than veterans' post traumatic stress disorder) and veterans' emergency financial assistance, including, but not limited to, past due utilities, housing, and transportation costs.

4/6/2022	House	Passed Both Houses
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