

APR 10 2023



American Legion Department of Illinois Legislative Commission

Agenda Spring 2023 by Zoom

4/2/2023

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Agenda Items-New IL Legislation:

Bill Status of HB0925

Short Description: MILITARY SERVICE-TECH

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Requires non-congressional service organizations to apply for a state charter with the Attorney Generals office and regulate who can sit in on VAC's/

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1048

Short Description: PROP TX-VETERANS-WWII

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section granting a homestead exemption to veterans with disabilities, provides that property that is used as a qualified residence by a veteran who was a member of the United States Armed Forces during World War II is exempt from taxation regardless of the veteran's level of disability. Provides that a veteran who qualifies as a result of his or her service in World War II need not reapply for the exemption. Effective immediately.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1154 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: PROP TX-DISABLED VETERANS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the surviving spouse of a veteran who has a service connected disability of 100% and is deemed to be permanently and totally disabled need not reapply for the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities. Effective immediately.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1217 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: VETERANS' LICENSURE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force Act. Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force to advise the Governor and General Assembly and work directly with State agencies and institutions of higher education to improve and expand policies, services, programs, and opportunities for service members, veterans, and their families. Provides specified subjects for the Task Force to review and make recommendations on. Requires the Task Force to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 1, 2023, and to other specified agencies in electronic form. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 1, 2024. Effective immediately.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of HB1222 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM ACT

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Home Modification Program Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is to establish a home modification funding system that is streamlined, effective, and administered by experts within the disability community. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services shall establish a Home Modification Program to provide financial assistance to persons with disabilities for home modification projects. Requires the Department to designate a statewide association that represents centers for independent living to serve as the lead agency to administer the Program. Requires the Department to provide funding for the Program. Requires the lead agency to distribute any moneys it receives from the Department to the State's 22 centers for independent living, covering all 102 counties. Provides that the lead agency shall ensure that each center for independent living has access to at least \$105,000 to use for home modification projects, with the excess funds subject to reallocation during the 4th fiscal quarter of each year. Contains provisions concerning eligibility requirements for applicants under the Program; standards and qualifications for home modification projects; the lead agency's establishment of a Home Modification Subcommittee to provide additional oversight of the home modification projects; and an administrative fee to the lead agency.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1239 103rd General Assembly (OPPOSED by VFW)

Short Description: IDOR-VETERANS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Revenue Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires eligible school districts to report to the Department of Revenue (i) the total amount of veterans' homestead exemptions granted for the 2022 levy year for property located in the eligible school district and (ii) the total amount of veterans' homestead exemptions granted for the current levy year for property located in the eligible school district. Provides that the Department shall certify the difference, if any, between the current levy year exemption amount and the levy year 2022 exemption amount for each eligible school district. Provides that those amounts shall be transferred from the General Revenue Fund to the Support our Veterans and Neighbors Fund. Provides that an "eligible school district" is a school district that contains residential property that is located within 45 miles of a United States military base. Creates the Support our Veterans and Neighbors Fund. Provides that moneys in the Support our Veterans and Neighbors Fund shall be used to make grants to eligible school districts.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of HB1350 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: INC TX-VETERAN CAREGIVER

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.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1581 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: VEH-SUBMARINE SERVICE PLATES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Allows the Secretary of State to issue special registration plates designated as United States Submarine Veterans plates to each resident of this State who served in the United States Navy as a submariner.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of SB0091 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: UNIV OF IL-VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Provides that a county is entitled to a scholarship in the University of Illinois for the benefit of the children of persons who served in the armed forces of the United States until any time on or after August 2, 1990 and until Congress or the President orders that persons in service are no longer eligible for the Kosovo Campaign Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of SB0213 103rd *General Assembly*

Short Description: BURIAL RIGHTS-VISITATIONS

As Introduced

Amends the Burial Rights Act. Provides that contracts between cemetery authorities and cemetery worker's associations prohibiting in any manner dedications of monuments or headstones, family visitations, or visitations to veterans memorials on Sundays or legal holidays shall be deemed to be void as against public policy and wholly unenforceable. Makes conforming changes.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of SB0220 103rd *General Assembly*

Short Description: PROP TX-VETERAN-COMMERCIAL

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the portion of the property that is used by a business that is certified by the United States Small Business Administration as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) is not considered to be used for commercial purposes for the purposes of the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities. Effective immediately.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of SB0274 103rd *General Assembly*

Short Description: VEH CD-REG FEES-VETERANS-WAIVE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the standard registration fee for passenger motor vehicles of the first division and motor vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds shall be waived for any veteran who holds proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of a service-connected disability.

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of SB1376 103rd *General Assembly*

Short Description: HOUSING-HOMELESS VETS & FAMILY

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Homeless Family Placement Act. In a provision listing certain factors a referring agency must consider prior to referring a homeless family with school age children to a shelter, requires the referring agency to also consider the military status of any member of the family to determine the family's eligibility for State or federal benefits and other

supportive services for homeless veterans and their families, including, but not limited to, housing or rental assistance, job training, and employment opportunities.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of SB1534 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: PROP TX-VETERANS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, if a veteran with a surviving spouse dies while an application for a veteran's homestead exemption is being reviewed, the review of that application shall continue, and any subsequent approval granted to the veteran shall carry over to the surviving spouse as long as the spouse meets specified requirements. Effective immediately.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of SB1595 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: VITAL RECORDS-CERTIFICATES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Vital Records Act. In provisions concerning the search of death certificates for service members, replaces references to active duty or retired service members with references to active duty service members or veterans. Effective immediately.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of HB1656 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: GOVERNMENT-TECH

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

(5 ILCS 100/5-90) (from Ch. 127, par. 1005-90)

Sec. 5-90. Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

(a) The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules is established as a legislative support services agency subject to the Legislative Commission Reorganization Act of 1984. When feasible, the agenda of each meeting of the Joint Committee shall be submitted to the Secretary of State to be published at least 5 days before the meeting in the Illinois

Register. The Joint Committee may also weekly, or as often as necessary, submit for publication in the Illinois Register lists of the dates on which notices under Section 5-40 were received and the dates on which the proposed rulemakings will be considered. The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit the Joint Committee from acting upon an item that was not contained in the published agenda.

(b) The Joint Committee may charge reasonable fees for copies of documents or publications to cover the cost of copying or printing. The Joint Committee shall, however, provide copies of documents or publications without cost to agencies that are directly affected by recommendations or findings included in the documents or publications.

(Source: P.A. 87-823.)

Recommend Denial

Bill Status of SB2005 103rd General Assembly

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Housing Authorities Act. Requires housing authorities to develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless. Provides that such preferences shall be cumulative with any other preference allowed by a housing authority for which the veteran qualifies. Provides that nothing in the amendatory Act shall be construed to supersede any federal law or regulation.

Recommend Approval

Bill Status of SJR0010 103rd General Assembly

Short Description: ATOMIC VETERANS HIGHWAY

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
1/31/2023	Senate	Referred to Assignments

Synopsis As Introduced

Designates the portion of Illinois Route 171 between Illinois Route 83 and U.S. Route 45 as the "Atomic Veterans Highway".

Recommend Approval

Discuss homestead exemption for Less Than Honorable Discharge per Larry Millers email.

Illinois Property Tax Code

Legislative

Larry Miller <lmiller.ildiv5@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 16, 3:06 PM
(6 days ago)

to me, Detrall, Art, Edward

Greetings,

I received a phone call from a legion member from St Clair County IL. It was in relation to the Illinois Property Tax Code. Specifically, the St Clair County Assessor's Office is denying a Homestead exemption based on the wording of 35 ILCS 200/15-169(f) which says, in part:

““Veteran” means an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or State active duty, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or a member of the United States Reserve Forces and who has received an honorable discharge.”

The veteran who contacted me related he has a General Discharge under Honorable Conditions. He also indicated there were 79 other veterans in St Clair County who received the letter. I have attached a copy of the letter, with the veterans name redacted, from the St Clair County Assessor's Office showing they will be denying future exemptions.

I contacted the Madison County Veteran Assistance Commission Superintendent for his input, as he closely follows this sort of issue. He commented on a previous Illinois Supreme Court ruling that upheld the term "honorable discharge" used in legislation, to mean exactly that, Honorable Discharge, not General Discharge under Honorable Conditions.

I feel as the Legislative Commission, we need to address this issue. Perhaps through a resolution to contact state legislators and support veterans who fell in the General Discharge under Honorable Conditions category.



JENNIFER GOMRIC MINTON

COUNTY ASSESSOR

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

10 PUBLIC SQUARE

BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62220-1623

TELEPHONE:
(618) 825-2704



In the process of auditing previously granted Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities applications, it came to our attention that your discharge status is not compliant with a statutory requirement for qualification. The Illinois legislature in defining *veteran* for the purpose of this homestead exemption specifically requires "honorable discharge" as a condition for qualification. See 35 ILCS 200/15-169(f).

Beginning with the 2023 assessment year/payable in 2024, any application which contains a discharge status not reflecting 'honorable discharge' will be denied. At the time of this letter, no action is anticipated by this department which would revise the previous year(s) bills to seek the uncollected amounts. If you wish to discuss this with our department, please call 618-825-2502.

Alvin

Regards,

St Clair County Assessor's Office

National Update

On Thursday, the Senate voted 61-34 to confirm Lester Martinez-Lopez to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). This comes as Acting ASD(HA) Seileen Mullen is running out of time to be in the acting role. Martinez-Lopez was nominated about 18 months ago.

The Senate Appropriations Committee set up its subcommittees this week. Sen. Tester (D-MT) chairs the Defense Subcommittee, with Sen. Collins (R-ME) as ranking member. The rest of the subcommittee consists of Sen. Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Feinstein (D-CA), Sen. Murray (D-WA), Sen. Reed (D-RI), Sen.

Schatz (D-HI), Sen. Baldwin (D-WI), Sen. Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Murphy (D-CT), Sen. McConnell (R-KY), Sen. Murkowski (R-AK), Sen. Graham (R-SC), Sen. Moran (R-KS), Sen. Hoeven (R-ND), Sen. Boozman (R-AR), and Sen. Capito (R-WV).

Sen. Murray chairs the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (Milcon) Subcommittee, with Sen. Boozman as ranking member. The rest of the committee members are Sen. Reed, Sen. Tester, Sen. Schatz, Sen. Baldwin, Sen. Heinrich (D-NM), Sen. Coons (D-DE), Sen. Manchin (D-WV), Sen. Peters (D-MI), Sen. McConnell, Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Collins, Sen. Rubio (R-FL), Sen. Hagerty (R-TN), and Sen. Fischer (R-NE).

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), on Wednesday, announced the Treasury Department will run out of cash between July and September. That puts special pressure on Congress to pass legislation to raise the debt ceiling in light of their traditional month-long August recess.

As House Republicans try to decrease federal spending, or cap it at FY22 levels, many Senators, including some prominent Republicans, are pointing to the recent Chinese surveillance balloon to defend not cutting defense spending.

Thursday morning, the Senate VA Committee reported eight bills related to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the full Senate. A ninth, the CAREERS Act, is being negotiated with GOP committee members.

Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) officially announced this week that she will not run for another term. She has been plagued in recent months with questions on her mental fitness after a series of gaffes where she forgot things and colleagues said she was no longer as sharp as she had been. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) is expected to file to run for Feinstein's seat by the end of the month. Update