

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

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End of Session Report

2009 - 2010

This report provides a summary of all bills heard by the Committee as well as a brief synopsis of the informational hearings held during the 2009 - 2010 legislative year. For additional information concerning any bill in this summary, please contact the Committee office.

Thank you for your continued interest in veterans issues. It is important for the Committee to continue advancing veterans policy issues for California.

Introduction

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is pleased to provide the End of Year Report for the benefit of the Committee members, their staff, the administration, the lobbying community, and the public. The Committee hopes that this report provides a quick and convenient reference to bills that were considered by the Committee and informational hearings held during the 2009 - 2010 legislative year.

Committee bill files from this year and last Session are kept with the Committee and are available for public review upon request. Please contact us by phone at (916) 651-1503 or in person at 1020 N Street, Suite 251, Sacramento if you need more detailed information about any bill included in this report.

The Committee also keeps a record of all informational hearings. The record includes the hearing agenda, various background materials developed by the Committee staff, testimony, and supporting materials submitted by witnesses. In addition, informational hearings are often audio recorded and occasionally video recorded. Please contact us if you need more information about an informational hearing summarized in this report.

Informational Hearings

March 5, 2010 - How can California do a better job in serving the residents of California's Veterans Homes?

April 20, 2010 - Improving Coordination Between the California Department of Veterans Affairs and County Veteran Service Officers in order to Better Serve California's Veterans

April 28, 2010 - Integrating Returning Veterans into the Economy

June 9, 2010 - Healthcare Assistance for Returning Veterans

November 4, 2010 - Investigation of Reported Irregularities Concerning Expenditures of Recruitment Funds at the California National Guard

Summary of Legislation

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference to bills that were considered by the Committee during the 2009 – 2010 legislative year. This summary is not intended to provide a complete analysis of each bill. However, if you need information please review the complete bill analysis which is available upon request or at www.sen.ca.gov.

This summary includes the bill's number, the bill's author, a brief summary of the bill, and the current status of the bill. Senate bills are listed first because the Committee normally hears Senate bills early in the legislative year, followed by Assembly bills.

Senate Measures

SB 361, Runner *Public postsecondary education: priority registration: Armed Forces and State Military Reserve service*

This bill makes changes to existing law giving veterans priority registration at a California State University or California Community Colleges, by limiting priority admission to honorably discharged veterans only. Adds the California National to the definition of Armed Forces. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 351, Statutes of 2009))

SB 369 Maldonado *Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Flag: state-owned buildings and facilities*

This bill requires the National League of POW/MIA Families flag be flown at all state-owned buildings and facilities during business hours where the United States and the California state flags are currently flown, if the flag can be attached to existing structures. This bill authorizes the state to accept donations of the POW/MIA flags and related materials. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 47, Statutes of 2009))

SB 418 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Department of Veterans Affairs: contracts: veterans service organizations*

This bill would revise those legislative findings and declarations with regard to the use of General Fund moneys for that purpose until the annual budget for county veteran service officers reaches \$5,000,000. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 48, Statutes of 2009))

SB 419 Committee on Veterans Affairs *County veteran service officers: funding*

This bill would make changes to those findings and declarations by declaring that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately \$11,000,000. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 183, Statutes of 2009))

SB 421 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Veterans' benefits: Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1943*

The Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1943, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides veterans with the opportunity to acquire farms and homes. Existing law provides that when a veteran has been authorized by the department to select a farm or home, the veteran shall submit the selection to the department, as provided. This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to this provision. ((Died in Senate Rules))

SB 423 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Veterans: educational assistance: dependents*

Existing law defines "veterans" for the purposes of the various programs bestowing benefits upon veterans, including, but not limited to, educational assistance for dependents of veterans. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to that definition. ((Died in Senate Rules))

SB 469 Aanestad *Veterans' cemeteries: fees*

This bill would authorize the fee for the interment of the spouses and children of honorably discharged veterans in these cemeteries to be waived if the cemetery administrator determines that the families of the spouses or children do not have sufficient means to pay for the costs of interment, and would require any costs for these interments to be paid from nonstate funds. This bill would require the cemetery administrator to seek reimbursements, as specified, and would authorize the cemetery administrator to solicit private donations, to offset any fees lost as a result of this fee waiver. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 589, Statutes of 2009))

SB 548 Huff *California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program*

This bill requires the awarding department to keep the DVBE certification on file. DGS indicates one-time costs of about \$40,000 to develop regulations, and to develop bid language that requires the primary contractor who makes a commitment to use a DVBE to either 1) certify that all payments have been made to the DVBE contractor, or 2) document why there was no subcontract with the DVBE. This bill also provides that any person or entity that knowingly provides false information will be subject to a civil penalty of between \$2,500 to a maximum of \$25,000. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 595, Statutes of 2009))

SB 553 Wiggins *Veterans Home of California*

Existing law provides for the establishment and operation of the Veterans' Home of California at various sites, and that there shall be an administrator for each home or homesite. Existing law defines "home" to mean the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, and the Veterans' Home of California, Barstow. Existing law also defines "administrator" to mean the Administrator of the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, and the Administrator of the Veterans' Home of California, Barstow. These definitions do not reference the Veterans' Home of California located in Chula Vista. This bill would revise these definitions to include reference to the Veterans' Home of California located in Chula Vista. ((Died in Senate Veterans Affairs))

SB 595 Cedillo *Homeless Veterans Housing and Supportive Services Act of 2010*

This bill would enact the Homeless Veterans Housing and Supportive Services Act of 2010 (Bond Act), authorizing the issuance of \$1,500,000,000 in general obligation bonds to provide funds for supportive housing projects for homeless veterans or veterans at risk

of homelessness. The Bond Act would only become operative if approved by the voters at November 2, 2010 statewide general election. This bill would also revise the specifications of eligible expenditures under the Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) to include certain non-capital costs. This latter provision would become operative even if the bond act election fails. ((Died in Senate Rules))

SB 611 Correa *Student financial aid: Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards: access costs*

This bill would authorize a student whose tuition and/or fees are paid in full by a grant-in-aid, including education benefits received through federal programs for veterans, to use a Cal Grant A Entitlement Award for costs other than tuition or fees, but not to exceed \$1,551. ((Died in Senate Appropriations))

SB 642 Denham *Public Contracts: Small Business Procurement and Contract Act*

1) The Small Business Procurement and Contract Act permits a state agency to award a contract for goods, services, or information technology with a value between \$5,000 and \$100,000 to a certified small business, including a microbusiness and a disabled veteran business enterprise, without complying with specified competitive bidding requirements. This bill would increase the maximum amount of the contract from \$100,000 to \$250,000. 2) Existing law encourages state agencies that enter into contracts to establish goals to facilitate the participation of small businesses and disabled veteran business enterprises. This bill also would require the contractor, upon completion of a public contract for which a commitment to achieve small business or disabled veteran business enterprise participation goals was made, to report the actual percentage of small business or disabled veteran business enterprise participation that was achieved. 3) The State Contract Act governs contracting between state agencies and private contractors, and sets forth requirements, for the bidding, awarding, and overseeing of contracts for projects, which it defines to include the construction or other improvement to a state structure or building with a total cost threshold equal to \$100,000 for calendar year 1993, as adjusted every two years. This bill would instead establish a 2010 cost threshold at \$250,000, which would be adjusted every two years. ((Died in Senate Appropriations))

SB 643 Denham *California Prompt Payment Act: disabled veteran business enterprises*

This bill would include a disabled veteran business enterprise, as defined under the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program, among the entities to whom higher penalties are payable under the California Prompt Payment Act. ((Died in Senate Appropriations))

SB 644 Denham *Civil service examinations: veterans' preference*

This bill increases veterans points on state service examinations for veterans without prior state service. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 357, Statutes of 2009))

SB 646 Denham *Student financial aid: veterans and dependents*

This bill would prohibit campuses of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC) from charging any mandatory system fees to California members of the armed services who were honorably discharged and have no more remaining months of GI Bill eligibility. The bill would provide that these fee waivers would be operative only in those fiscal years in which funds are appropriated for the purpose. ((Died in Senate Appropriations))

AB 670 Bill Berryhill *Vehicles: high-occupancy vehicle lanes: veterans*

This bill permits a veteran or active duty member of the United States Armed Forces to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, regardless of occupancy level. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 62, Statutes of 2009))

SB 647 Denham *California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program*

This bill establishes the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program. ((Died in Senate Education))

SB 809 Denham *Sales and use taxes: consumers: veterans: itinerant vendors*

The Sales and Use Tax Law imposes a tax on retailers measured by the gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property sold at retail in this state, or on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property purchased from a retailer for storage, use, or other consumption in this state, measured by sales price. That law, with certain exceptions, defines a retailer as a seller who makes any retail sale of tangible personal property and as a person who makes more than two retail sales of tangible personal property during any 12-month period, and defines a retail sale as a sale of tangible personal property for any purpose other than resale in the regular course of business. This bill would specify, until January 1, 2012, that a qualified itinerant vendor, as defined, is a consumer, and not a retailer, of tangible personal property owned and sold by the qualified itinerant vendor, except for alcoholic beverages or items sold for more than \$100, so that the retail sale subject to tax is the sale of tangible personal property to the qualified itinerant vendor. The Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law authorizes counties and cities to impose local sales and use taxes in conformity with the Sales and Use Tax Law, and the Transactions and Use Tax Law authorizes districts, as specified, to impose transactions and use taxes in conformity with the Sales and Use Tax Law. Exemptions from state sales and use taxes are incorporated in these taxes. Section 2230 of the Revenue and Taxation Code provides that the state will reimburse counties and cities for revenue losses caused by the enactment of sales and use tax exemptions. This bill would provide that, notwithstanding Section 2230 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, no appropriation is made and the state shall not reimburse local agencies for sales and use tax revenues lost by them pursuant to this bill. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 621, Statutes of 2009))

SB 818 Committee on Veterans Affairs *California State Military Museum and Resource Center*

This bill requires the annual audit report and business plan prepared by the Board of Directors of the California State Military Foundation, which operates the California State Military Museum and Resource Center, to be submitted by May 15 of each year. It also makes several similar changes which are meant to update language in the Military and Veterans Code to reflect the change in the name of the Museum to the California State Military Museum. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 623, Statutes of 2009))

SB 950 Wiggins *Veterans homes: accounting for charges: written notification*

This bill would require the written notice to also include the terms and conditions upon which the member fees and costs can be changed, and to require a signature of the veteran to acknowledge that he or she has read and understands the notice. This bill would also require the notice to be written in plain, straightforward language. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 509, Statutes of 2010))

SB 981 Hollingsworth *Disabled person and disabled veteran license plates*

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon application and without additional fees, to issue a special license plate or plates to a disabled person, disabled veteran, or an organization or agency involved in the transportation of disabled persons or veterans, as specified, in accordance with procedures adopted by the department. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this law. ((Senate Rules))

SB 1002 Wiggins *Veterans' Home of California*

This bill would update that provision to declare that additionally there are in the department a Veterans' Home of California, Barstow, a Veterans' Home of California, Chula Vista, a Veterans' Home of California, Lancaster, and a Veterans' Home of California, Ventura. This bill would require the Veterans' Home of California, Lancaster, to also be known as the "William J. 'Pete' Knight Veterans' Home of California, Lancaster." This bill would also make other conforming changes. ((Senate Inactive File))

SB 1003 Wiggins *Veterans' Home of California*

Existing law provides for the establishment and operation of the Veterans' Home of California at various sites, and for an administrator for each home or homesite. Existing law defines "home" to mean the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, and the Veterans' Home of California, Barstow. Existing law also defines "administrator" to mean the Administrator of the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, and the Administrator of the Veterans' Home of California, Barstow. These definitions do not reference the Veterans' Home of California located in Chula Vista, the Veterans' Home of California located in Lancaster, or the Veterans' Home of California located in Ventura. This bill would update these definitions to refer to the Veterans' Home of California

located in Chula Vista, the Veterans' Home of California located in Lancaster, and the Veterans' Home of California located in Ventura. ((Assembly Inactive File))

SB 1057 Denham *State Holidays: Veterans' Day: State office closure*

This bill would specify that public offices of the state and state institutions include, but are not limited to, all state agencies and the Legislature. The bill would also state the Legislature's intent that the University of California also be closed on November 11th, Veterans' Day. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 511, Statutes of 2010))

SB 1075 Correa *Military service: benefits*

This bill would, as an alternative to the above protections for a student granted an academic leave of absence for military service, require an institution, upon election by the student, to make arrangements to reasonably accommodate and assist the student so that he or she is able to meet any and all coursework requirements that he or she may have missed due to military service, as defined. The bill would revise the definition of "service member" and "military service" for purposes of the California Military Families Financial Relief Act of 2005, and would make other related changes. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 284, Statutes of 2010))

SB 1127 Oropeza *Veterans: ailments from various conflicts information to family members*

This bill would require the department to make available to family members of veterans returning from active duty user friendly Internet resources that provide information on the signs of pertinent ailments from various conflicts, as specified, and printed material regarding those ailments at any public function of the department. This bill would require counties, whenever possible, to make facilities available to the department or any of its official representatives or partners for the purpose of reintegration seminars, briefings, or lectures regarding those ailments. By requiring counties to make facilities available to the department or any of its official representatives, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 515, Statutes of 2010))

SB 1382 Senate Veterans Affairs *Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program: methodology*

Existing law, the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program, establishes the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards, the Cal Grant C Awards, and the Cal Grant Awards under the administration of the Student Aid

Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. The program specifies the minimum financial need required for the receipt of Cal Grant awards and requires, for purposes of determining financial need, that financial need to be calculated consistent with the commission's methodology for financial need for the 2000–01 academic year. This bill would delete the requirement that the calculation of financial need be consistent with that methodology and would make other technical, nonsubstantive changes. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 113, Statutes of 2010))

SB 1383 Denham *Veterans Loans*

The Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1943, among other things, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the interest rate to be paid with respect to certain veterans' purchase contracts. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions. ((Senate Rules))

SB 1386 Senate Veterans Affairs *Department of Veterans Affairs: inventory of amended Senate resources*

This bill would require the department, by January 1, 2012, to conduct an inventory of existing military resources, as described, in California, in order to facilitate the department's efforts to maximize available federal funding to provide services and support for veterans, and by June 30, 2012, to submit a report to the Legislature concerning the results of the inventory. ((Senate Appropriations))

SB 1387 Senate Veterans Affairs *Department of Veterans Affairs: administration: California Veterans Board*

This bill would require one member of the board to have a degree in health care administration or experience in the financial management of health care facilities. This bill would require the member of the board who is a resident of a California veterans home to be appointed for a term expiring January 15 of odd-numbered years. This bill would remove the \$50 per diem limit received by members of the board. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 183, Statutes of 2010))

SB 1388 Senate Veterans Affairs *County Veteran service officers: funding*

Existing law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veteran service officer, and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veteran service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions. This bill would appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the department for allocation during the 2010–11 fiscal year. ((Senate B & F R))

SBX6-7 Denham *Income taxes: hiring credit: veterans*

This bill would, under both laws, for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2010, allow a credit to a qualified taxpayer, as defined, in an amount equal to 25% of the wages, not to exceed \$6,000, paid to each qualified veteran, as defined, by the qualified taxpayer during the taxable year. This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy. ((Senate Rev & Tax))

SJR 9 Kehoe *Military: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy*

This measure would urge the Congress and the President of the United States to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009 H.R. 1283) that institutes a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation, and to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Res. Chapter 29, Statutes of 2010))

SJR 10 Committee on Veterans Affairs. *Military: health care*

This measure would request that the President and the Congress of the United States pass H.R. 816 that would prohibit certain increases in fees for military health care. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Res. Chapter 124, Statutes of 2009))

SJR 16 Denham *Veterans: educational benefits*

This measure would request that the President and the Congress of the United States pass the H.R. 2474 that would restore funding for California veterans pursuing higher education. ((Assembly Veterans Affairs))

SJR 25 Yee *Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund*

Urges the President of the United States, Congress, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to expedite funding, and lessen the amount of required documentation necessary to allow eligible Filipino and Filipino American veterans to receive payments provided under the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Res. Chapter 98, Statutes of 2010))

Assembly Measures

AB 177 Ruskin *Public contracts: small business and disabled veteran business enterprise*

This bill would increase the period of certification revocation and suspension for such violations, and additionally require the revocation of the business' seller's permit for additional or subsequent violations. This bill would increase the period of certification revocation and suspension for such violations, and additionally require the revocation of the business' seller's permit for additional or subsequent violations. This bill would impose civil penalties against any person who knowingly and fraudulently represents that a commercially useful function is being performed by a disabled veteran business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a bid preference or a state contract, and would subject that person to revocation of the disabled veteran business enterprise certification and suspension from bidding on or participating in any state contract or project for a specified period. This bill would additionally require that any existing contract between any awarding department and contractor be terminated if the contractor knowingly and fraudulently represents that a commercially useful function is being performed by a disabled veteran business enterprise or by a small business or microbusiness, and require the Controller to withhold any payments to that contractor except for outstanding invoices. This bill would require persons or businesses found to have obtained small business or disabled veteran business enterprise certification by fraudulent or improper means to pay costs incurred by the awarding department or the Department of General Services, as specified. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 342, Statutes of 2010))

AB 343 Saldana *Pupils: military families*

This bill enacts the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 237, Statutes of 2009))

AB 498 Hayashi *Affordable housing: veterans*

This bill would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to collaborate with the Department of Housing and Community Development to facilitate the development of multifamily housing for military veterans and their families. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 345, Statutes of 2010))

AB 563 Cook *Personal income taxes: contributions: California Military Family Relief Fund*

This bill makes largely technical changes to how the personal income tax checkoff contributions to the California Military Family Relief Fund (Fund) are allocated to members of the active and reserve members of the Armed Forces. Specifically, the bill:

- 1) Requires that funds currently allocated to the Military Department for the establishment of financial aid grants, shall instead be allocated, for the same purposes, to the California National Guard for distribution to a nonprofit organization that the Guard selects (Selected Nonprofit).
- 2) Provides that the non-profit organization selected by the

Guard shall establish grant eligibility criteria. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 451, Statutes of 2009))

AB 589 Cook *Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: contracts: county veterans service officers: incarcerated veterans*

This bill enables the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to contract with county veterans services to assist an incarcerated honorably discharged veteran and/or his or her dependents to any privilege, preference, care or compensation provided by the United States or of California. ((Senate Transportation & Housing))

AB 638 Knight *Veterans: CalVet Home Loan program: credit report check: waiver*

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to waive any requirement to run a credit report check for honorably discharged veterans applying for a loan under the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974. ((Inactive bill – Died in Assembly Veterans Affairs))

AB 670 Bill Berryhill *Vehicles: high-occupancy vehicle lanes: veterans*

This bill permits a veteran or active duty member of the United States Armed Forces to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, regardless of occupancy level. ((Inactive Bill – Died in Assembly Transportation))

AB 674 Salas *Criminal procedure: veterans*

This bill establishes a deferred entry of judgment program and a pre-conviction drug diversion program for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 347, Statutes of 2010))

AB 710 Yamada *Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund*

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to apply for a grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in order to fund community-based organizations (CBOs) providing substance abuse and mental health services to veterans, including treatment for post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) and military sexual trauma, as defined. This bill also: 1) Makes any federal grant monies received subject to appropriation by the Legislature and deposits these funds in the Veteran's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund. 2) Requires DVA to develop a process to certify CBOs as eligible for receipt of the grant funds. 3) Requires CBOs receiving grant funds to report on the programs and services supported by those funds. 4) Allows counties lacking CBOs serving veterans to apply directly for the grants. ((Senate Appropriations))

AB 716 Huber *Veteran services: state agencies and departments*

This bill declares legislative intent for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to establish a veteran data exchange system and enter into memorandums of understanding (MOUs) or interagency agreements with other state agencies and departments to ascertain the veteran status of all persons receiving services, benefits, or assistance from those state agencies and departments. Specifically, this bill would require each state agency and department that provides services, benefits, or assistance to veterans to identify the services, benefits, or assistance that are being provided and the number of veterans who are using those services, benefits, or assistance and to submit a report to the Legislature. ((Vetoed))

AB 1013 Block *Corrections: veteran inmates*

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to conduct an interdisciplinary assessment of new inmates who have combat experience with the United States military, or are on active duty, reserve, or national guard status, and to develop specialized treatment protocols for those inmates. ((Inactive Bill – Died in Assembly Appropriations))

AB 1051 Fletcher *Veterans: Pooled Self-Insurance Fund*

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to establish and maintain a Pooled Self-Insurance Fund for purposes of pooling the reserves of its various insurance reserve funds. This bill also: 1) Requires the department to publish rules and regulations for administration of the pooled fund, and authorizes the department to purchase insurance out of appropriated moneys in the pooled fund. 2) Requires DVA to report annually to the Legislature regarding activities of the fund, and to conduct a biennial audit six months after inception of the fund. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 502, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1088 Fletcher *Taxpayer contributions: California Veterans Homes Fund*

This bill would repeal those provisions, and instead allow individuals to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the California Veterans Homes Fund, which would be created by this bill. However, the bill would provide that a voluntary contribution designation for this fund may not be added on the tax return until another voluntary contribution designation is removed from that return. This bill would, like the expenditure of all moneys contributed to the Veterans' Quality of Life Fund, require the expenditure of all moneys contributed to the California Veterans Homes Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for administrative costs and for distribution into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund for each of the veterans homes, as provided. This bill would require any funds remaining in the Veterans' Quality of Life Fund to be transferred to the California Veterans Homes Fund. This bill would provide that these voluntary contribution provisions be repealed on January 1 of the 5th taxable year following the taxable year the fund first appears on the personal income tax return. This bill would further provide that these provisions would be

repealed for taxable years beginning on or after January 1 of the calendar year in which the Franchise Tax Board estimates by September 1 that the contributions made on returns filed in that calendar year will be less than \$250,000, or an adjusted amount for subsequent taxable years. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 355, Statutes of 2010 Senate))

AB 1330 Salas *Veterans: pilot project: cooperative housing*

This bill authorizes the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to establish a pilot project for the purpose of operating a cooperative housing project, in which CDVA would prescribe the rules, regulations, and conditions necessary to implement the pilot project. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 524, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1378 Manual Perez *Veterans services: federal Workforce Investment Act: funding criteria*

This bill deletes an existing requirement that an entity or its subcontractors demonstrate that the majority of the entity's federal Workforce Investment Act resources are dedicated to serving the needs of veterans and their families, and instead requires these entities to demonstrate the ability to create, utilize, and participate in local partnerships, including those with local workforce investment boards, educational agencies, training organizations, and other key stakeholders to leverage resources and provide a full array of workforce services for serving the needs of veterans and their families. ((Died in Assembly Appropriations))

AB 1459 Davis *Multifamily Housing Program: veterans*

Existing law establishes the Multifamily Housing Program under the administration of the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide a standardized set of program rules and features applicable to all housing types based on the department's California Housing Rehabilitation Program. Existing law authorizes a sponsor of a supportive housing development, as defined, to restrict occupancy to persons with veteran status if, among other things, the development is located on property that is owned or leased by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the California Department of Veterans Affairs and is leased to the sponsor for not less than 55 years. This bill would delete the requirement that the development be located on property owned or leased by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the California Department of Veterans Affairs for the specified term. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 533, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1463 Smyth *High school graduation: military uniforms*

This bill allows a pupil who has fulfilled all high school graduation requirements, has completed basic training, and is an active member of any branch of the United States military to wear his or her dress uniform in his or her graduation ceremony. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 296, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1567 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Employment training panel: 3-year plan: training programs: veterans*

This bill requires the Employment Training Panel's (ETP's) strategic plan to include training goals, strategies, and objectives to support target populations, including military veterans. ((Vetoed))

AB 1568 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Veterans: benefits*

This bill makes the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) a permanent program, delays its operative date until January 1, 2010 and repeals language requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to select three consenting counties that have a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) medical center to participate in PARIS. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 299, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1569 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Postsecondary education: tuition: veterans*

This bill conforms state law to federal law by granting a member of the Armed Services or his or her dependents, as specified, entitlement to resident classification for so long as he or she is continuously enrolled. Specifically, this bill 1) Allows a member of the Armed Forces who is a student at a California public postsecondary education institution and is transferred on military orders to a place outside the state to maintain his or her residency status for tuition purposes so long as the student remains continuously enrolled at that institution. 2) Allows a student at a California public postsecondary education institution who is the spouse, natural or adopted child, or stepchild of a member of the Armed Forces who is transferred on military orders to a place outside the state to maintain his or her residency status for tuition purposes so long as the student remains continuously enrolled at that institution. 3) Requests the University of California (UC) enact conforming policies. 4) Makes technical and clarifying changes to existing law. ((Senate Veterans Affairs))

AB 1570 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Veterans Service providers*

This bill requires each entity of state government to give preference to a qualified entity when awarding a grant for a project that would provide, or when entering into a contract to provide, social services to veterans. ((Vetoed))

AB 1571 Committee on Veterans Affairs *Veterans mental health: county plans*

This bill prohibits the Department of Mental Health (DMH) from approving a county's plan for the expenditure of funds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), as specified, unless it includes verifiable representation from a legitimate veterans group in the stakeholder planning process and includes a separate section that specifically addresses how the mental health needs of veterans are, or are not, being met. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 546, Statutes of 2009))

AB 1644 Nielsen *Veterans Remains*

This bill allows prescribed entities in possession of the cremated remains of a veteran, upon the request of a veterans' service organization to release specified information and remains to a veterans' service organization if certain conditions are met. Specifically, this bill: 1) Requires the veterans' service organization to take all reasonable steps to inter remains received. 2) Exempts from civil liability, except for willful or wanton misconduct, an entity that releases information or remains after meeting the specified conditions. 3) Exempts from negligence a veterans' service organization that receives and inters remains if the veterans' service organization does not know or have reason to know that the remains were not released in compliance with the above conditions. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 189, Statutes of 2010))

AB 1729 Yamada *Civil service examinations: veterans' preference*

This bill would extend the time in which a member of the Armed Forces may receive the additional points to 12 months after the establishment of the employment list. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 237, Statutes of 2010))

AB 1757 Monning *Veterans Cemetery*

This bill authorizes the design and construction of a state-owned veterans cemetery to be located on the site of the former Fort Ord in Monterey County. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 450, Statutes of 2010))

AB 1829 Cook *Military decorations: fraud*

Increases the penalty from an infraction to a misdemeanor for civilians who, orally, in writing, or by wearing any military decoration, falsely represents himself or herself to have been awarded any military decoration, with the intent to defraud. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 366, Statutes of 2010))

AB 1908 Cook & Carter *Vehicles: specialized license plates: Veterans' Organizations*

This bill allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to redesign the veterans organizations license plates. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 166, Statutes of 2010))

AB1925 Salas *Veterans Courts*

This bill would authorize superior courts to develop and implement veterans courts for eligible veterans of the United States military with the objective of, among other things, creation of a dedicated calendar or a locally developed collaborative court-supervised veterans mental health program or system that leads to the placement of as many mentally ill offenders who are veterans of the United States military, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, or any mental health problem stemming from military service, in community treatment as is feasible and consistent with public safety. ((Vetoed))

AB 1944 Fletcher *Vehicles: special license plates: disabled veterans*

This bill would delete “disabled veteran” from these provisions and instead establish new requirements for the issuance of a special license plate or plates to a disabled veteran or an organization or agency involved in the transportation of those persons that would require that the Department of Veterans Affairs certify on a form prescribed by the Department of Motor Vehicles that the veteran is disabled as a result of an injury or disease suffered while on active service with the Armed Forces of the United States. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 421, Statutes of 2010))

AB 1948 Knight *Property taxation: disabled veterans’ exemption: claim: cancellation or refund tax*

Existing tax law provides, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, for the exemption from property taxation of specified amounts of the assessed value of the home of a disabled veteran, or a veteran’s spouse in the case in which the person has, as a result of a service-connected disease or injury, died while on active duty in military service, contingent upon a claim being filed, as specified. Existing law requires, if the exemption would have been available but for the claimants’ failure to receive a timely disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), the refund or cancellation of taxes on that portion of the assessed value of the property that would have been exempt under a timely and appropriate claim, provided a claimant meets certain filing requirements, including, among others, that the claimant subsequently file an appropriate claim on the later of 30 days of receipt of the disability rating from the USDVA or on or before the next following lien date. This bill would extend the time period the claimant has to subsequently file an appropriate claim from 30 days to 90 days of receipt of the disability rating from the USDVA. ((Assembly Rev & Tax))

AB 2087 Torres *Veterans’ farm and home purchases: definition: home*

This bill would expand the definition of home to include residences with 2 to 4 units, inclusive, that satisfy specified requirements and that are only occupied by veterans and their families. ((Senate Appropriations))

AB 2115 Knight *Firearms: concealed firearms license: veterans*

This bill would provide, if the person seeking the license is a veteran, that no good cause would need to be shown for issuance, and would require the sheriff or the chief or other head of a municipal police department to issue the license to the veteran if the other criteria described above are met. ((Assembly Public Safety))

AB 2143 Gilmore *Department of Veterans Affairs: consolidation of services to veterans*

This bill would establish the California Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of coordinating and

administering veterans assistance programs in the state, and would require the division to perform various functions and duties relating to the coordination and administration of veterans assistance programs, as specified. The bill would require the administrative and support staff responsible for the administration of the specified programs to be transferred from the Employment Development Department to the division, and would require the costs of the transfer to utilize existing resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs. ((Senate Veterans Affairs))

AB 2156 Evans *Military and veterans: Veterans' Home Allied Council*

Provides for the establishment of a Veterans; Home Allied Council (Council) for each veterans' home, and additionally permits each Council to represent veterans who reside in the veterans' home for which the Council was established in matters before the Legislature. Specifically, this bill : permits each Council to represent veterans who reside at the veterans' home in matters before the Legislature, providing that representation, complies with specified requirements as follows: 1) The Council's representation shall be approved by a majority of the voting members of the Council. 2) The Council shall not engage in any campaign or endorse public candidates in connection with that representation. 3) The Council's actions shall be in accordance with its constitution, bylaws, and policies and procedures. ((Vetoed))

AB 2249 Ruskin *State government: small business or disabled veteran business enterprise certification*

This bill would restate provisions related to the 3% participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises, and would require a small business or a disabled veteran business enterprise to file with submit to the department a written declaration, under penalty of perjury, that all information submitted, including the additional information for disabled veteran business enterprises, is true and correct, and would authorize the department to require, in certain cases, the enterprise to complete and submit to the department a specified federal tax form under certain circumstances requesting a transcript of a tax return. By expanding the definition of the existing crime of perjury, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 383, Statutes of 2010))

AB 2309 Fletcher & Salas *Veterans Home of California*

This bill updates the Military and Veterans Code to rename various veterans homes operated by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA). Specifically, this bill provides that within CDVA there are the following Veterans Homes of California: 1) A Veterans Home of California, Yountville, situated in Napa County. 2) A Veterans Home of California, Barstow, situated in San Bernardino County. 3) A Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista, situated in San Diego County. This bill provides that this veterans home shall also be known as the "John Smith Memorial Veterans Home." 4) A Veterans Home of California, Lancaster, situated in Los Angeles County. This bill provides that this veterans home shall also be known as the "William J. 'Pete' Knight

Veterans Home." 5) A Veterans Home of California, Ventura, situated in Ventura County. 6) A Veterans Home of California, West Los Angeles, situated in Los Angeles County. ((Assembly Inactive file))

AB 2365 Lieu *Veterans affairs: administration*

This bill renders a person who has violated the rights of a service member under existing law liable for attorney's fees, court costs, and damages. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 385, Statutes of 2010))

AB 2455 Nava *Military service: benefits*

This bill authorize members of the military to defer payment on up to two loans on vehicles. In addition, this bill provides that a spouse or legal dependent, or both, of a member of the military is entitled to the deferral of payment benefits accorded to a member, if the member is eligible for those benefits. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 124, Statutes of 2010))

AB 2627 Nielsen *Veterans: contracts: disabled veteran business enterprises*

This bill would also deem a disabled veteran business enterprise that rents equipment to a contractor to be an equipment broker, as specified. The bill would also revise various related definitions pursuant to those provisions, including "broker" or "agent," "equipment," and "equipment broker." Existing law also prohibits state funds expended for equipment rented from equipment brokers, as specified, from being credited toward the 3% goal. This bill would instead require the broker's commission fees of state funds expended through a broker or equipment broker to be credited toward the participation goals as established for disabled veteran business enterprises. ((Senate Appropriations held under submission))

AB 2651 Knight *Veterans farm and home purchases: bond acts*

This bill establishes the "Veterans' Bond Payment Fund" within the Military & Veterans' Code (MVC) to pay debt service on Cal-Vet Home Loans. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 27, Statutes of 2010))

AB 2661 Salas *California National Guard: mental health assessments: combat troops*

This bill requires the California National Guard to develop and implement a mental health assessment program for every National Guard soldier who has been deployed to a combat zone. ((Assembly Appropriations held under submission))

AB 2783 Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs *Professions and vocations: military personnel*

This bill states the Military Department shall be consulted before the adopting of rules and regulations that provide for the licensure and regulation of certain businesses, occupations, and professions by specified boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs created under the Business and Professions Code. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 214, Statutes of 2010))

AB 2784 Assembly Veteran Affairs *Veterans*

This bill would revise that requirement to also permit that substantial training or professional expertise to be in mental health counseling. This bill would also state the intent of the Legislature to encourage the Governor, when making the appointments to the board, to consider a veteran with specific expertise in women veterans' mental and physical health issues, and would make legislative findings and declarations related to women veterans. ((Vetoed))

AB 2785 Assembly Veterans Affairs *Department of Veterans Affairs: administration: agreements with other agencies*

This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, on or before June 30, 2011, and every year thereafter, to identify other state agencies and departments that offer or provide services to veterans, for the purpose of entering into formal agreements that specify the respective roles and activities of the entities. ((Senate Appropriations held under submission))

ACR 158 Yamada *Women Veterans Recognition Month*

Proclaims the month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month. ((Senate Rules))

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