



California State Senate

**Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs**

Bob Archuleta, Chair • Shannon Grove, Vice Chair

# 2021-22 Legislative Summary & Status

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Senator Bob Archuleta (Chair)  
Senator Shannon Grove (Vice Chair)  
Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Senator Melissa A. Melendez  
Senator Josh Newman  
Senator Richard D. Roth  
Senator Thomas J. Umberg

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## OUR MISSION

*To honor, legislate and advocate on behalf of all who have worn our nation's military uniform and defended our nation – past, present, and future.*

### Introduction

The Senate Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs has jurisdiction on all bills pertaining to veterans, military affairs, and armories; and bills amending the state's Military and Veterans Code. The Committee also has oversight of all programs managed by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California Military Department (CMD).

This report provides a quick synopsis of bills considered by the Committee during the 2021-22 Legislative Session and is not intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the bill. Bills that were passed by the Legislature and became law are followed by the chapter number and year enacted. For bills that did not become law, the last location of the bill in the legislative process is shown. Veto messages are included for bills vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was followed by a series of executive orders and instructions intended to reduce exposure to the coronavirus throughout 2020-21. The Legislature took action to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including modifying normal legislative protocols and timelines. As a result, some bills that were referred to the Committee were not heard.

An electronic copy of this report is available under "Publications" on the Committee's web page at <https://svet.senate.ca.gov/>. Copies of bill analyses prepared by the Committee may be obtained at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

**SENATE BILLS**

**SB 43 (Umberg)**

**Veteran cemetery: County of Orange**

This bill would delete specific site selection requirements and would instead require the department to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the City of Irvine, as specified.

*Held in committee and under submission.*

**SB 348 (Grove)**

**Veterans' homes: closure**

This bill, would, in the event the department recommends or proposes to close a veterans' home, require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convene a taskforce that includes representatives from the department, elected officials from the community where the home is located, residents of the home, staff employed at the home, and local veterans groups. The bill would require the taskforce to conduct a review of the proposed closure and submit recommendations regarding the proposed closure of the veterans' home to the Legislature.

*Held in committee and under submission*

**SB 352 (Eggman)**

**The military: sexual harassment**

This bill establishes that an offense of sexual harassment by a member of the active militia is punishable by specified military proceedings or by a court-martial, requires the California Military Department (CMD) to report aggregate annual statistics regarding the prevalence of sexual harassment, and clarifies that crimes (including sexual crimes) committed while on active duty are not protected from civil or criminal liability.

*Chaptered. Chapter 183, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 498 (Umberg)** **Funds for the provision of legal services to indigent persons: disabled veterans**

This bill expands the definition of “indigent person” by increasing one measure of income eligibility from 125% to 200% of a specified poverty threshold. The bill would further require, for the purpose of that definition, that the income of a person who is disabled be determined after deducting disability compensation from the United States Veterans Administration paid to a veteran with a service-related disability. The bill would also include disabled veterans within special client groups for purposes of the certain other projects that may qualify for funds. The bill would also state the intent of the Legislature relating to the distribution of funds for the provision of legal services to indigent persons, as described.

*Chaptered. Chapter 688, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 614 (Archuleta)** **California Military Department Support Funds activities**

This bill specifies an agreement between the California Military Department (CMD) and a nonprofit military or veteran foundation to conduct CMD Support Fund activities may be in the form of a memorandum of agreement (MOA), and authorizes the CMD to expend money in the CMD Support Fund for the sole purpose of supporting CMD Support Fund activities if that money was donated for those purposes.

*Chaptered. Chapter 184, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 658 (Grove)** **Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans**

This bill, for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2022, would provide a partial exemption for property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran who is partially disabled, as defined, or the veteran’s spouse or the veteran and the veteran’s spouse jointly, under these provisions. The bill would require that the amount of partial exemption provided be the percentage of the full amount of exemption, as described above, equivalent to the partially disabled veteran’s disability rating percentage by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, as applicable.

*Died in Senate Appropriations*

**SB 661 (Newman)**

**Veterans' farm and home loan program**

This bill authorizes the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to refinance existing CalVet Home Loan Program mortgages under specified conditions, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary of CalVet) to delegate specified duties to a proxy, qualifies service members of the California National Guard or a reserve component of any branch of the United States armed forces who has completed not less than a six-year commitment and was released under honorable conditions, and modifies definitions for specified properties to meet CalVet standards.

*Chaptered. Chapter 549, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 665 (Umberg)**

**Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference**

This bill would enact the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish a voluntary veterans' preference employment policy for hiring and retaining veterans without deeming it discriminatory under local and state equal employment opportunity laws and the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

*The Governor's message states that this bill allows private employers to create a temporary veterans' preference for hiring and deems these policies as not violating anti-discrimination laws, until January 1, 2028. While honoring and assisting veterans are vitally important goals of the Administration, there is concern the veterans' preference policies that would be permitted by this legislation could negatively impact employment opportunities for women and other protected groups underrepresented among veterans, such as people with disabilities.*

*Senate-Vetoed by the Governor*

**SB 667 (Roth)**

**Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: claims:  
executor and administrator of claimant's estate**

This bill allows the executor, administrator, or personal legal representative of a claimant's estate to file a claim for the disabled veterans' exemption.

*Chaptered. Chapter 430, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 745 (Newman)**

**California Veterans Board**

This bill would state that the board is a separate and independent entity from the department. The bill would require the board to independently advise the department and secretary on policies for operations of the department. The bill would authorize the board, in conducting an independent hearing of a veteran appeal of a decision from the department, to be supported by department staff, as specified. The bill would require the board to be assisted by independent counsel during the hearing.

*Died in Senate Military and Veterans Affairs*

**SB 949 (Laird)**

**Veterans: California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery**

This bill would remove the requirement that the Controller annually report on the status of the Endowment Fund. The bill would additionally remove obsolete provisions regarding the construction of the cemetery.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 135, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 984 (Archuleta)**

**Military service: leave of absence: pay and benefits**

This bill would recast provisions to instead require that employee members of reserve military units and the National Guard required to perform inactive duty obligations, other than inactive and active duty training drill periods, as specified, be granted military leave of absence without pay as provided by federal law. The bill would also authorize employee members that attend or perform inactive duty obligations, other than inactive and active duty training drill periods, as specified, to elect to use vacation time or accumulated compensatory time off to attend those other obligations.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 384, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 1073 (Grove)**

**Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans**

This bill, for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2023, would additionally provide a partial exemption for property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran who is partially disabled, as defined, or the veteran's spouse or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, under these provisions. The bill would require that the amount of partial exemption provided be the percentage of the full amount of exemption, as described above, equivalent to the partially disabled veteran's disability rating percentage by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, as applicable. By adding to the duties of local tax officials in administering the disabled veterans' property tax exemption, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

*Held in committee and under submission*

**SB 1195 (Grove)**

**Veterans Homes**

This bill would require the department to assess, among other things, the potential for the Veterans Health Administration to place satellite medical clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus, to serve both residents of the veteran homes and nonresident veterans in the communities where state veteran homes are located. The bill would require the department to meet and confer with officials of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on the possibility of locating satellite clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 194, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 1237 (Newman)**

**Licenses: military service**

This bill would define the phrase “called to active duty” to include active duty in the United States Armed Forces and on duty in the California National Guard, as specified. This bill would also make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 386, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 1311 (Eggman, Atkins)**

**Veterans: protections**

This bill, the Military and Veteran Consumer Protection Act of 2022, would make a person who violates those provisions, if the violation is perpetrated against one or more service members or veterans, liable for an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation, as specified.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 620, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 1357 (Archuleta)**

**Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners**

This bill would exempt from taxation property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran, the veteran’s spouse, or the veteran and the veteran’s spouse jointly, if the veteran is 100% disabled. The bill would provide an unmarried surviving spouse a property exemption in the same amount that they would have been entitled to if the veteran was alive and if certain conditions are met. The bill would require certain documentation to be provided to the county assessor to receive the exemption and would prohibit any other real property tax exemption from being granted to the claimant if receiving the exemption provided by the provisions of this bill. The bill would make these exemptions applicable for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2023, but occurring before January 1, 2033. By imposing additional duties on local tax officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

*Held in committee and under submission*



**SB 1435 (Military & Veterans Affairs)**

**Veterans home use: reporting**

This bill would require the department to review the homes on a specified schedule and to update the report every 5 years. The bill would require the reports and updates to be submitted to the Legislature and posted on the department's internet website in an accessible and searchable format.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 137, Statutes of 2022*

**SB 1478 (Archuleta)**

**Disabled veteran business enterprises**

This bill, commencing March 1, 2023, and until March 1, 2027, would authorize a state agency to award a contract for services or information technology that has an estimated value of between \$5,000 and \$500,000 to a certified small business, including a microbusiness, or to a DVBE, as long as the agency obtains price quotations from 2 or more certified small businesses or 2 or more DVBEs. The bill would specify that a certified small business or DVBE that utilizes this process as an alternative to the competitive bidding requirements may not also receive the small business preference or the DVBE participation incentive, as specified.

*Died*

**SJR 3 (Archuleta)**

**Battleship: USS Iowa**

This measure urges the United States Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to sign, the Battleship USS Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act of 2021.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 129, Statutes of 2021*

**SJR 15 (Glazer)**

**Port Chicago 50**

This measure would respectfully urge the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take action to restore honor to the sailors unjustly blamed for, and the sailors convicted of mutiny following, the disaster at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California during World War II and to rectify any mistreatment by the military of those sailors, including the full exoneration of those who were convicted at court-martial.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 112, Statutes of 2022*

**ASSEMBLY BILLS**

**AB 107 (Salas)**

**Licensure: veterans and military spouses**

This bill expands, commencing 2023, an existing requirement for certain programs within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to issue temporary licenses to qualified military spouses to instead require all DCA boards to issue temporary licenses within 30 days of receiving documentation that the applicant has met specified requirements, except for those boards that already have an equivalent process.

This bill exempts the Board of Psychology from creating a new temporary license program by authorizing a psychologist certified or licensed in another state or Canadian province who is a military spouse and has applied for licensure to practice without a valid license for a period not to exceed 12 months or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever occurs first. This bill requires the DCA and the Department of Real Estate (DRE) to separately submit annual reports to the Legislature with specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service-members, and their spouses.

*Chaptered. Chapter 693, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 305 (Maieschein)**

**Veteran services notice**

This bill would require specified governmental agencies to include, at their next scheduled update, additional questions on their intake and application forms to determine whether a person is affiliated with the Armed Forces of the United States, and requires the information be sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), provided the person has granted consent.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 376, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 325 (Irwin)**

**Veterans: discharge upgrades**

This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, require the department to establish the Veteran's Military Discharge Upgrade Grant Program to help fund service providers who will educate veterans about discharge upgrades and assist veterans in filing discharge upgrade applications.

*Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 377, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 496 (Chen)** **Cremation of veterans with the United States flag**

This bill authorizes a crematory, upon request of the person with the authority to dispose of the remains, to cremate the remains of a person who was a member of a branch of the United States military with a single American flag. The bill would exempt a flag that is incinerated in this manner from the recordkeeping requirements for incinerating a flag.

*Chaptered. Chapter 118, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 576 (Maienschein)** **Community colleges: apportionments: waiver of open course provisions: military personnel**

This bill waives open course provisions in statute or regulations of the California Community Colleges (CCC) board of governors (BOG) for any governing board of a community college district (CCD) for community college courses the district provides to military personnel on a military base, and would authorize the board of governors to include the units of full-time equivalent students generated in those community college courses for purposes of state apportionments.

*Chaptered. Chapter 562, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1002 (Choi)** **Postsecondary education: course credit for prior military education, training, and service**

This bill requires the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with the CSU Academic Senate, and requests the University of California (UC), by September 1, 2022, to develop a consistent policy for awarding course credit for prior military education, training, and service.

*Chaptered. Chapter 567, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1315 (Military & Veterans Affairs)** **Veterans' homes: lease of property**

This bill would make easements subject to the same use requirements as other real property held by the department. The bill would also specify that these requirements do not apply to an easement established prior to January 1, 2022, a public utility easement or other public easement, or an access easement.

*Senate-In Committee Military & Veterans Affairs*

**AB 1352 (Chau)**

**Independent information security assessments: Military  
Department: local educational agencies**

This bill would authorize the Military Department, at the request of a local educational agency, and in consultation with the California Cybersecurity Integration Center, to perform an independent security assessment of the local educational agency, or an individual school site under its jurisdiction.

*Chaptered. Chapter 593, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1595 (Quirk-Silva, Choi)**

**Veterans Cemetery: County of Orange**

This bill would delete those site selection requirements and would instead require the department to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and state-operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange. The bill would require the department to conduct an acquisition study, in consultation with the Department of General Services, to assess the feasibility and costs of construction of the cemetery.

The bill would additionally create the Southern California Veterans Cemetery Study Donation Fund, and would authorize any local governmental entity or private organization in the County of Orange to donate to the fund. The bill would authorize the department, upon receipt of sufficient moneys, to conduct a study of the feasibility of a site formally proposed by a local government in the County of Orange for the purpose of establishing a Southern California Veterans Cemetery, as specified. The bill would continuously appropriate moneys in the fund to the department for these purposes. The bill would require any excess funds to be returned to the donor if requested, and to otherwise be used for the design, development, construction, and equipment of the cemetery.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

*Chaptered. Chapter 579, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 1633 (Seyarto)**

**Public postsecondary education: veterans  
educational benefits: information sharing**

This bill would require the California State University, and request the University of California, to electronically transmit specified personal information regarding students whose tuition or fees, or both, are paid, or intended to be paid, using GI Bill educational benefits, as defined, to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each academic year, starting with the 2023–24 academic year, as provided. The bill would, on or before June 1, 2023, require the office of the Chancellor of the California State University, and request the office of the President of the University of California, to develop a template for informed, written consent to be used by campus financial aid offices that permits a student to opt in to having the student’s personal information shared with the Department of Veterans Affairs, as provided.

*Chaptered. Chapter 174, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 1692 (Voepel, Mathis )**

**Veterans: mental health**

This bill would require the department to establish a program to fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California, as specified. The bill would require the department to submit a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2024.

This bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 31, 2024, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2025.

*Vetoed*

**AB 1715 (Muratsuchi)**

**Space Force**

This bill would amend those provisions to also include the United States Space Force among the lists of Armed Forces entities, the lists of those entities for the purposes of the definitions of veteran, and among other lists of military entities, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would create a state-mandated local program. The bill would additionally amend other provisions to include the Air Force among the lists of entities.

*Chaptered. Chapter 379, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 1730 (Davies)**

**Penal damages: veterans**

Existing law requires the trier of fact, in a civil action to redress unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair competition brought by, on behalf of, or for the benefit of senior citizens or disabled persons, to consider specified factors in determining the amount of a discretionary fine, penalty, or remedy to be imposed. Existing law authorizes the trier of fact, upon a finding of one of those factors, to impose a fine, penalty, or other remedy in an amount up to 3 times greater than the amount authorized by statute or the amount the trier of fact would impose in the absence of the affirmative finding. This bill would make these provisions applicable to veterans.

*Chaptered. Chapter 78, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 1731 (Davies)**

**Postsecondary education: Title 38 awards:  
postsecondary educational institutions: application for approval or renewal**

This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2024, CSAAVE to establish regulations requiring postsecondary educational institutions to provide specified information to CSAAVE as part of an application for approval or renewal.

This bill would state that its provisions are severable.

*Chaptered. Chapter 380, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 1768 (Cooper)** **State employees: active duty compensation and benefits**

This bill, for purposes of the above-described provisions, would delete the references to federal law. For purposes of establishing how long the affected state employees are required to receive these active duty compensation and benefits, the bill would refer instead to the provisions of California law that generally establish the right of state employees to compensation and benefits while on active duty, as described above. The bill would make other non-substantive changes.

*Vetoed*

**AB 2032 (Eduardo Garcia, Mathis)** **Ending Military and Veteran Suicide Task Force**

This bill would require the department to establish an Ending Military and Veteran Suicide Task Force within the Office of Suicide Prevention to systematically reduce military and veteran suicides and to develop a plan to eliminate all military and veteran suicides in the state, as specified. Commencing June 1, 2025, the bill would require the task force to submit a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of veteran suicide prevention, as specified, including, among other things, an analysis of the plans, activities, strategies, and programs undertaken pursuant to the task force's recommendations and their effects on reducing military and veteran suicides in the state.

*Vetoed*

**AB 2105 (Smith)** **Contractors: initial license fee reduction: veterans**

This bill would require the board to grant a 50% fee reduction for an initial license or registration fee to an applicant who provides specified documentation to the board that the applicant is a veteran who has served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserve components, and was not dishonorably discharged.

*Chaptered. Chapter 156, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 2119 (Flora)**

**Veterans: Medical Foster Home Pilot Program**

This bill would authorize the State Department of Social Services to establish a program, no sooner than July 1, 2024, to issue licenses to medical foster homes for veterans. The bill would require a medical foster home for veterans, as defined, established pursuant to this program to meet specified requirements and would prohibit a person from operating, establishing, managing, conducting, or maintaining a medical foster home for veterans without a license. To apply for a license, the bill would require a person to submit an application that includes, among other things, evidence of the applicant's ability to comply with statutory requirements and other information the department may require. The bill would require the department to charge an application fee of \$88, review applications within a specified timeframe, and conduct a pre-licensure inspection, as specified. The bill also requires applicants, adults residing or regularly present in an applicant's or licensee's home, and other individuals who have contact with a client to be subject to a background check.

*Chaptered. Chapter 381, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 2509 (Fong)**

**Vehicles: registration fees exemption**

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill would additionally exempt a Purple Heart recipient, and the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who has elected to retain special license plates, from those fees.

*Chaptered. Chapter 382, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 2949 (Lee)**

**Vehicles: toll exemptions**

This bill would exempt a vehicle that is registered to a veteran, displaying a specialized veteran license plate, as specified, and registered to a transponder or other electronic toll payment device from payment of a toll or related fines on a toll road, toll bridge, toll highway, vehicular crossing, or any other toll facility, except a high-occupancy toll lane. The bill would also make conforming changes.

*Chaptered. Chapter 871, Statutes of 2022*

**AB 2963 (Military & Veterans Affairs Comm) Veterans: CA Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee**

This bill would remove the members from the Fort Ord Reuse Authority and the Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee, and instead require the committee to have 3 representatives from local veterans' service organizations appointed by the secretary.

*Chaptered. Chapter 130, Statutes of 2022*

**AJR 7 (Patterson)**

**State veterans cemeteries: Hmong veterans**

This measure urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to permit states to extend burial and memorial benefits to Hmong veterans at state veterans cemeteries.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 117, Statutes of 2021.*

**AJR 10 (Choi, Nguyen, Quirk-Silva)**

**Veterans cemeteries: Republic of Korea veterans**

This measure would urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to permit states to extend burial and memorial benefits in state veterans cemeteries to Republic of Korea veterans and Republic of Vietnam veterans who served in the Vietnam War and who subsequently became United States citizens. The measure would urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to extend the same benefits in national cemeteries.

*Assembly-In Committee Military & Veterans Affairs*

**AJR 17 (Waldron)**

**Military behavioral health care**

This measure would urge the President, the Congress of the United States, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to take all measures to ensure that military veterans can access necessary treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders in a timely manner.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 96, Statutes of 2022*

**AJR 19 (Eduardo Garcia)**

**Deported Veterans**

This measure would urge the federal government to implement and streamline the process for service members and veterans to become citizens immediately, halt deportations of veterans, and pardon all veterans who have been deported and bring them home.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 144, Statutes of 2022*

**AJR 28 (Cristina Garcia)**

**Bernard B James**

This measure would respectfully memorialize the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take action to restore honor to Bernard B. James, and to take the necessary actions to ensure the treatment of Bernard B. James is rectified by a full exoneration, including having the military record of Bernard B. James cleared of any court judgment and less-than-honorable discharge.

*Chaptered. Res. Chapter 56, Statutes of 2022*



## **Oversight and Informational Hearings**

No oversight or informational hearing was held in 2021.