

# The Military - Veterans Coalition Of Indiana 2018 Legislative GOALS V5

## **1. Fix the Indiana Veteran Recovery Pilot Program (IVRP) IC 10-17-14; IC 27-1-43; IC 34-13-3-2.**

Synopsis:

- **Extend for at least ONE year** the Indiana Veteran Recovery Pilot Program (evidence based clinical trial).
- **Extend existing funding** to provide treatment and funding for veterans with traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder, and to obtain reimbursement from third parties (federal government).
- **Select up to 5 hospitals/service providers** that cover the four quadrants and center of the state.
- **Remove requirement of co-pay.**
- **Eliminate any restriction** of when the injury occurred.
- **Require Rules be done by June 15, 2018.**
- **Add protections for provider and medical staff.**
- **Specify block grant versus grants for each person** put into the trial.
- **Require all services to be done at costs by providers.**
- **Restrict IDVA and ISDH (all state government)** from receiving any of the \$1 MILLION budgeted amount.
- **Require reporting periodically** to ISDH, IDVA, General Assembly, and Governor.

## **2. Increase State Income tax exempt status for all military income, current or retired. IC 6-3-2-4.**

Synopsis: Increase Military Service deduction; retirement income or survivors benefit deduction from adjusted gross income (AGI) of military income.

**3. IC 4-30-3-20.5. Synopsis: Lottery games to benefit veterans.** Require the state lottery commission to adopt rules and establish a scratch-off ticket to benefit Indiana veterans. Deposit revenue from sales of tickets for the scratch-off game into the veteran's trust fund. 10% of funds generated can be used to administer the fund. All such dedicated funding, raised through the veterans scratch off card, will be non-reverting and shall be appropriated for its intended purpose.

## **4. Keeping and growing veteran population in Indiana.**

**SECTION 1. IC 6-3.1-34. Synopsis: INDIANA Tax credit for hiring veterans.** Provide the INDIANA Work Opportunity Tax Credit (IWOTC) for hiring qualified veterans. Through IWOTC, for-profit employers may receive tax credits of \$3,000 per qualified eligible service member currently serving in the United States Armed Forces or for \$2,000 for qualified non-profit organizations. The IWOTC program enables the targeted employees to gradually move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income, while participating employers are able to reduce their federal AND STATE income tax liability. The tax credit can be claimed after the eligible service member currently serving in the United States Armed Forces works for one year at the business. Revenue gain to the state will depend upon factor such as:

- The number of hours the eligible service member currently serving in the United States Armed Forces works
- The eligible service member currently serving in the United States Armed Forces first year of wages

Work One Regions are to train businesses on how to apply for the Federal and State WOTC to encourage use and success of this program.

For additional information go to: [www.doleta.gov/wotc](http://www.doleta.gov/wotc)

<https://www.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/default.asp?pg=employers>

**Instituting a Private Enterprise Indiana Tax Credit for each documented veteran hired as a fulltime employee during their tax year**

**SECTION 2.** IC x-x-x. Synopsis: **Add or assign one staff person to lead and create a group within State Personnel Department to recruit service members coming off active duty** at their active duty discharge locations 6 months prior to their expiration of service. Team with economic development commission and private enterprises to develop marketing packages and financial incentives to lure skills desired for employment in Indiana. Provide loans for home purchase, salary while training for job, relocation expenses, property tax abatement for up to 10 years, and Indiana Income Tax credits. Program should be modeled after “Regional Cities” projects where private industry joins with local government and state government to build a “regional” marketing package to be used as a major tool in winning new veterans coming to Indiana. The idea is building a template for communities to use to get and keep veterans and execute on a community level with coordination by STATE level. One possible example would be to assist with use of GI bill education benefits for training in area where families will be moving to Indiana. (i.e. A welder moves to Ft Wayne and needs some specialized training; coordinate to have available in Ft Wayne area. Insure private business have sponsors and mentors to insure assimilation into the community and business.)

**5. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Support.**

**SECTION 1.** IC10-17-12. Synopsis: **Fund Service Officer training, renewal, and training expenses.** Direct annual appropriation from General Fund in amount per biannual budget.

*Rationale: Calculation: 4 Days \* 92 CVSOs \* \$170 per hotel, food, and travel = \$62,560*

**SECTION 2.** IC10-17-1-9. Synopsis: County service officers, city service officers, and assistants’ requirements. **Require the designation and duties of county service officers to serve for 5 years.** Poor performance should be considered to remove service officer sooner.

**SECTION 3.** IC 10-17-1-6 Synopsis: **Expand duties of the IDVA director to include notification to county/ city leadership, governor, of non-compliance to IC 10-17-1-9 County service officer, city service officer, and assistants within 60 days of date the vacancy occurs.**

**SECTION 4.** IC 6-3.6-9-12, Require a portion of local income taxes to be withheld from cities and counties that fail to enforce accreditation and reaccreditation requirements for city and county service officers.

*(text from HB1089 of 2016)* Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), one-twelfth (1/12) of each adopting county's certified distribution for a calendar year shall be distributed from its trust account established under this chapter to the appropriate county treasurer on the first regular business day of each month of that calendar year. (b) If the Indiana veterans' affairs director certifies to the auditor of state and the budget agency that a county or city is not in compliance with the requirements of IC 10-17-1, one-fifth (1/5) of the part of the certified distribution that would be distributed to the county civil taxing unit shall be withheld by the auditor of state until the city or county has complied with IC 10-17-1. 15 (c) If a part of a distribution is withheld under subsection (b) and the city or county subsequently complies with IC 10-17-1, the auditor of state shall distribute to the county civil taxing unit the amount of the distribution that was previously withheld, without interest for the period during which the distribution was withheld. (d) A withholding made under subsection (b) shall not affect a distribution to any unit other than the county civil taxing unit.

**SECTION 5.** IC XX-XXX-XX. Require County Veteran Service Officers, City Veteran Service Officers, District Veteran Service Officers to be initially accredited by the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO).

**6.** IC21-14-4 Synopsis: **Tuition and fee exemption for children of disabled veterans.** Provide children of all service connected disabled veterans full remission of fees at any State supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. Funds are only available if all GI Bill benefits available to the individual are first exhausted. Provide a requirement to maintain a “C” GPA to continue to receive remission. Provide

remission of accrued debt to the VA disability decision start date. Limit duration of remission to 4 years and make funding limited to undergraduate degree or associates degree.

## 7. Veteran Homelessness

**SECTION 1.** IC 10-17-13.5-4. **Fix current funding for Veteran Homelessness and help End Veteran Homelessness.** Fix HB1001 to include Hoosier Veterans as defined in IC and include all individuals who have served in the armed forces regardless of the character of their discharge should they have a discharge. **Extend the period by 1 year.** Provide one full time staff person (assign) to lead a Veteran Homelessness Task Force to design, coordinate, and execute plans to manage the entire state problem—working with federal, state, county and other entities. Also provide property tax credits for Landlord/Property Owners/Managers who house Veterans that are connected to the VA or Veteran Organization. These providers shall be granted this credit only if they are associated with a not-for-profit organization helping homeless veterans in Indiana. Credits will be limited to two (2) years for the same property if the occupant is the same homeless veteran for the duration.

**SECTION 2.** IC xxx. **Make Veteran Homelessness Elimination a priority.** Direct State of Indiana Agencies to develop and execute policies and procedures to make elimination of veteran homelessness a priority and to meet federal guidelines. The policies and procedures should focus on treatment (to include substance abuse), elimination of barriers to temporary and permanent housing, job training, and elimination of barriers to employment that will support returning this individual to productive contribution to society.

## 8. Veteran Identification.

**SECTION 1.** IC 9-24, 9-29 new section. Synopsis: Require Bureau of Motor Vehicles to ask questions to **gather military service participation of applicants/renewals for driver's license or ID Card.** Also optionally, gather email/facebook information and phone number on a voluntary basis and store for use. Information will be posted to BMV database and can be used by IDVA to develop outreach of those who have served.

**SECTION 2.** IC 9-24, 9-29 new section. Synopsis: Require Bureau of Motor Vehicles to **issue a Disability Parking Placard with all Disabled Hoosier Veteran license plates.**

## 9. GUARD AND RESERVE EDUCATION MATTERS

**SECTION 1.** IC xx. Synopsis: **Enact academic protections for mobilized Guard and Reserve students** including: refund guarantees; and, exemption of a state or private student loan payments during mobilization.

**SECTION 2.** IC xx. Synopsis: **Exempt GI Bill, disability compensation, and vocational rehabilitation funds from being considered income in any need based financial aid calculations.**

## 10. Veterans inclusion in boards. IC xx-xx-xx

Require all workforce development boards, Commission on Higher Education, Civil Rights Commission Board of Directors, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, all state university board of directors, Department of Financial Institutes Board of Directors, Governor's Commission on Minority & Women Business Enterprise, Indiana Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Indiana Board of Tax Review, Indiana Career Council, Job creation committee, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, State Board of Education, State family Support Council, State Workforce Innovation Council, to have veteran representation and the boards shall prioritize actions to support veterans. Person(s) can satisfy multiple requirements of board membership as a veteran.

**11.** IC 14-22-12-1.4. Synopsis: Provide that **Veteran Non-Profit Organizations/Associations can get resident rates for disabled veterans** who may not be Indiana residents for fishing and hunting licenses **for a group event.**

**12. Renter Credit for Disabled Veteran.** IC 6-3-2-6 Deduction; rent payments. Provide a renter credit for a disabled veteran who would qualify for the property tax credit for disabled veterans except for the fact that the disabled veteran rents living quarters.

**13. IC 6-1.1-12-14. Synopsis: Veteran Property Tax Matters**

**SECTION 1. Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Service Member** killed in Action, Dies While On Active Duty, or receives Dependency Income Compensation (DIC).

**SECTION 2. Property Tax Exemption at 100% rate for veterans who are classified as individually unemployable** by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs regardless of their service connected disability rating.

**SECTION 3. Remove the property value limitation for a disabled vet to receive a property tax reduction.**

**SECTION 4. Abandoned homestead property taxation.** Allow a county or city fiscal body to adopt an ordinance to grant an assessed value property tax deduction for abandoned homesteads that **become owner occupied by a military veteran, member of the military, public safety officer, or licensed teacher. Provide that the deduction may be for up to 10 years** and at percentages specified in the fiscal body's ordinance. Permit the fiscal body to establish additional criteria for a homestead to be eligible for the deduction. Require an application process and an annual filing by the property owner. Allow the department of local government finance to adopt rules to implement the deduction.

**14. IC 6-3.1. Synopsis: Provide Employer tax credits** as a means to help offset costs associated with employees' **Guard or Reserve activities** and reinforce employer support.

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