

# The Military - Veterans Coalition Of Indiana 2019 Legislative GOALS

## Version 1

- 1. Extend and continue funding the Indiana Veteran Recovery Pilot Program (IVRP)** IC 10-17-14; IC 27-1-43; IC 34-13-3-2. Synopsis: Extend IC 10-17-13-3 to expire with the expiration of the biannual budget. Provide \$1Million to treat veterans and first responders during the biannual budget period using IC10-17-13-3.
- 2. Indiana Drug Treatment Recovery Pilot Program using Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy**  
Synopsis: Provide \$250,000 to treat Hoosiers who have become addicted to prescription drug with preference to veterans and first responders during the biannual budget period using IC10-17-13-3 as the model.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Directed use of Lottery gaming proceeds to counties to benefit veterans.** IC 4-30-3-20.5.  
Synopsis: Require the state to adopt rules and direct lottery tax proceeds currently allocated to counties be used for funding county veterans service officers salary based upon the 2016 summer study formula of veteran service officer staffing.
- 5. Keeping and growing veteran population in Indiana.**  
**SECTION 1.** IC 6-3.1-34. Synopsis: Develop a **Government and private business recruiting partnership to hire servicemembers leaving active duty** within the next six months. Private sector would provide \$2,000 to \$10,000 annually. State would form a regional recruiting strategy and team from existing state and county government resources. Purpose of this partnership is to develop a unique recruiting package to be used by team partners to go to military basis and recruit to fill job vacancies of private business partners.

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.) Our proposal asks business to partner and contribute \$2 to 10k up front to the partnership. These business

would be rewarded by getting new hires for their business and after the former service member works at this business one year, the business can get their contribution back in the form of a tax credit identified in section one of this initiative.

**SECTION 2. INDIANA Tax credit for hiring veterans.** IC 6-3.1-34. Synopsis: Provide the INDIANA Work Opportunity Tax Credit (IWOTC) for hiring qualified veterans. Through IWOTC, for-profit employers may receive tax credits equal to their recruiting contribution per qualified eligible service member currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

**SECTION 3.** 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. This person would be responsible to coordinate between each “region” and all government agencies to insure quality, timeliness, and synchronization of effort occurred.

#### 6. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Support.

**SECTION 1. Fund Service Officer training, renewal, and training expenses.**

IC10-17-12. Synopsis: 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.** 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 3.** 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).

#### 7. Higher Education Assistance Matters. IC21-14-4 Synopsis:

**SECTION 1.** Limit duration of remission to 4 years and make funding limited to undergraduate degree or associates degree. Master’s Degree Programs shall be funded separately.

**SECTION 2.** Require applicants to take CLEP test prior to application of financial aid.

**SECTION 3.** Provide funds only after all other sources of financial scholarships, grants, awards, benefits, or gifts are used.

**SECTION 4.** 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.

**SECTION 5.** Children of University Employees should only receive financial aid as identified above.

#### 8. Veteran Homelessness

**SECTION 1. Fix current funding for Veteran Homelessness and help End Veteran Homelessness.** Fix IC 10-17-13.5-4 to include Hoosier Veterans as defined in IC.

**SECTION 2. Fund \$1 MILLION to support the Homeless Hoosier Veterans in the biannual budget.**

**SECTION 3. 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.

**9. 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.

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

Require all workforce 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 **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. Veteran Property Tax Matters** IC 6-1.1-12-14. Synopsis:

**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.**

**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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