

# Veteran Bills Passed by the 2019 General Assembly

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This list was compiled by The Military / Veterans Coalition of Indiana  
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## **Senate Enrolled Act 216 - Educational costs exemptions.**

Amends the eligibility requirements for educational costs exemptions for children of and certain individuals related to certain veterans. Provides that a spouse or dependent of a qualified veteran is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate of a state educational institution if certain requirements are met. Removes the following: (1) Provisions concerning cumulative grade point average requirements for individuals who qualify for an exemption because of a father or mother (or other relation for certain individuals) who enlisted or otherwise initially served in the armed forces of the United States after June 30, 2011. (2) A provision requiring the commission for higher education to consider other higher education financial assistance in determining the amount of an exemption. (Another provision in current law requires any other financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs to be subtracted from the amount an applicant is exempt from paying.) Repeals and relocates, with changes to the eligibility requirements, the following categories of individuals exempted from educational costs at state educational institutions: (1) Children or surviving spouses of public safety officers. (2) Children or spouses of members of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund who sustain a catastrophic physical personal injury in the line of duty. (3) Children and spouses of Indiana National Guard members who suffer a service connected death while serving on state active duty (including a provision that a determination as to whether an applicant is eligible for an educational costs exemption is vested exclusively in the military department and a provision concerning appealing a determination by the military department). (4) Purple Heart recipients (and adds individuals who were wounded as a result of enemy action). Repeals provisions that list tuition and fee exemptions and reductions outside of the higher education provisions.

## **Senate Enrolled Act 280 - Over 65 property tax deduction.**

Increases the deduction limitation on the assessed value of an individual's real property, or mobile home or manufactured home which is not assessed as real property, if the individual is a disabled veteran or is at least 65 years of age on or before December 31 of the calendar year preceding the year in which the deduction is claimed. Increases the amount of the deduction for those individuals. Increases the adjusted gross income limitation for individuals that are at least 65 years of age.

**Senate Enrolled Act 324 - Disabled veterans parking placards.**

Requires the bureau of motor vehicles to design a parking placard that designates that the placard has been issued to a person who has been issued or is otherwise eligible to receive a disabled Hoosier veteran plate. Provides that a person who is qualified to receive a disabled Hoosier veteran plate and has been issued a permanent parking placard may not be charged a fee for parking in a metered space or assessed a penalty for parking in a metered space for longer than the time permitted.

**Senate Enrolled Act 491 - Funding for veterans programs.**

Extends to 2021 the veterans pilot program that provides assistance for certain providers to provide diagnostic testing and hyperbaric oxygen treatment to veterans. (Under current law, the program expires June 30, 2020.) Eliminates the requirement that a veteran must pay a co-pay equal to 10% of the cost of treatment billed to the Indiana department of veterans' affairs (department) or the state department of health for diagnostic testing and hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Provides that an individual veteran may not be required to pay a co-pay under the program. Voids the rule of state department of health defining "co-pay" for purposes of the program. Requires the state department of health to adopt emergency rules to amend specified existing program rules to do the following: (1) Remove the requirement that a veteran must pay a co-pay equal to 10% of the cost of treatment billed to the department. (2) Provide that grants may not be made under the program after June 30, 2021

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**House Enrolled Act 1010 - Income tax deductions.**

Increases the income tax deduction for income from military retirement or survivor's benefits beginning in 2019.

**House Enrolled Act 1053 - Disabled Hoosier veteran license plate.**

Requires the bureau of motor vehicles (bureau) to redesign the disabled Hoosier veteran license plate. Specifies that a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate must consist of the following elements: (1) The display of an emblem denoting the branch of service in which the veteran served. (2) A depiction of a wheelchair to indicate the disabled status of the veteran. (3) The words "Disabled Hoosier Veteran" at the bottom of the license plate. (4) Identification numerals with consecutive numbers or letters, or both, to properly identify the vehicle. (5) Any other information the bureau considers necessary.

### **House Enrolled Act 1257 - Military family relief fund.**

Requires an employee of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs (department) who is otherwise eligible to receive assistance from the military family relief fund (MFRF) to submit the employee's application directly to the Indiana veterans' affairs commission (commission). Requires the commission and the department to give timely responses to applications for assistance from the MFRF. Caps the amount of monetary assistance a qualified service member may receive from the MFRF at \$2,500, unless approved by the commission. Establishes the determination and analysis process the commission may use for applications requesting in excess of the \$2,500 threshold. Provides that the administrative orders and procedures act procedures do not apply to actions of the department of veterans' affairs and the Indiana veterans' affairs commission. Requires the commission to amend a rule in the Indiana Administrative Code that requires the department of veterans' affairs to give notice of the denial for short term financial assistance in a manner consistent with the notice provisions established in the administrative orders and procedure act. Voids the rule of the Indiana Administrative Code that requires all appeals concerning decisions of the department of veterans' affairs regarding financial assistance from the military family relief fund to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the administrative orders and procedures act.

### **House Enrolled Act 1268 - Veteran status information data base.**

Requires the following questions to be included on applications for a driver's license or permit and for a state identification card: (1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States?". (2) "Are you the surviving spouse of someone who served in the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?". Makes it optional for an applicant for a driver's license or permit and an applicant for a state identification card to answer the questions. Allows for the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families using information received from driver's license and permit applications and state identification card applications.

### **House Enrolled Act 1296- Medicaid waiver priority status for military child.**

Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services to apply, before July 1, 2019, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for an amendment to the family and support services Medicaid waiver to create priority status on the waiver for a child of an active member or veteran of the armed forces or the national guard.

### **House Enrolled Act 1299- Veterans affairs.**

Requires the office of judicial administration with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to identify and address the needs of veterans in the court system.