

Veteran Bills Passed by the 2017 General Assembly

For details, see: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/>

Senate Bill 307 - Veteran preference for employment and training

Requires the department of workforce development (department) to give a veteran or the spouse of a veteran priority for placement in any federal or state employment or training program administered by the department if the veteran or the veteran's spouse: (1) submits documentation satisfactory to the department establishing the veteran's honorable discharge from service; and (2) meets the eligibility requirements for the program

Senate Bill 382 - Veterans' driver's licenses.

Provides that an individual may request an indication of the individual's status as a surviving spouse of a veteran on the individual's driver's license or state identification card. (Current law provides only for an indication of veteran status.). Requires the bureau of motor vehicles (bureau) to share with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs information submitted to the bureau concerning requests for an indication of status as a surviving spouse of a veteran on a driver's license, permit, or ID card.

House Bill 1001 – Biennial Budget

1. Adds \$500K per year to the existing \$500K per year for Veterans Treatment Courts.
2. Adds \$300K per year for 6 regional veteran service officers to be added to IDVA.
3. Adds \$250K in 2018 for USS Indiana Commissioning Committee.
4. Continues existing funding of \$628K annually for the Office of Defense Development under Office of Lieutenant Governor.

5. Increases Veterans Service Organizations operating expenses to \$910K per year. Broken down as follows: Am Legion \$200K, DAV \$200K, VFW \$200K, AMVETS \$100K, Vietnam Vets of America \$100K.
6. Continues annual operation budget of Veteran's Cemetery \$279,577.
7. Continues Military Family Relief fund of \$\$1,678,100 annually from Veterans Trust fund (license plate money and Income tax donations)
8. Continues annual operating costs of Veterans' Home as follows:
 - General fund: \$2,927,180
 - Veterans' Home Comfort & Welfare Program \$10,669,626
 - IVH Medicaid Reimbursement Fund \$9,432,296
9. Continues annual tuition and fee exemption for children of veterans and public safety officers \$28,701,041
10. Continues annual National Guard Scholarship fund \$3,676,240
11. Adds construction funds for Veterans' Home \$2,120K
12. Adds rehab and repair of "777 North Meridian" \$4,992,625
13. Adds Veterans' Home Building fund \$1.5 Million
14. Adds repair & rehab at IN Veterans home \$620K
15. Eliminates military retirement income of \$5,000 as a deduction for military income after age 60.
16. Adds \$6,250 military retirement income deduction from AGI on Indiana Income Tax (Governor Holcomb wanted ALL).
17. Adds Grants for Veterans' Services by IDVA for:
 - Homelessness - if veteran has "received a discharge from service under honorable conditions".
 - Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Pilot - if veteran's "service related event that caused the traumatic brain injury or post traumatic stress disorder happened within the past twelve (12) months" AND the individual veteran must pay a co-pay of 10% of the cost of treatment billed by the State Department of Health. Requires Health Dept to do RFP for one (1) provider to do pilot.

House Bill 1308– Various professional licensing matters.

Requires the boards under the authority of the agency to expedite the issuance or renewal of licenses, certificates, registrations, or permits to military spouses. (Current law requires the boards to adopt rules to expedite the issuance or renewal of licenses, certificates, registrations, or permits to military spouses.). etal

House Bill 1324– Activation of state employees.

Provides that a state employee who is a member of the Indiana National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States is entitled to: (1) a leave of absence without loss of time while on active duty; and (2) compensation in an amount that is equal to the difference between the member's active duty military pay and the salary the member would have received if the member was not called to active duty. Defines certain terms.

House Bill 1394 – Waiver of local occupational license fees.

Requires a unit (county, city, town, or township) to waive as applicable all or part of the occupational and professional license fees and taxes imposed by the unit for the initial issuance and reinstatement of an occupational or professional license for applicants that are veterans, on active duty with the military or national guard, or indigent.

House Bill 1396 – Teacher licensing for military spouses.

Requires the state board of education to adopt rules, including emergency rules, that establish procedures to expedite the issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a teacher license to a military spouse whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana. (Current law allows, but does not require, the state board to adopt such rules.)

House Concurrent Resolution 12 - Conductor trainee programs for Veterans

Urging the United States Congress to enact legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to certify all licensure conductor trainee programs for GI Bill benefits as prescribed by the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010