

The following Veteran related legislation was enacted into law during the Noted Indiana Congressional sessions:

2013

Senate Bill 0115 - Combat to college program

Requires state educational institutions that have at least 200 veteran students enrolled to establish a combat to college program (program). Requires a state educational institution to: (1) provide a centralized location for admissions, registration, and financial administration services for veteran students; (2) provide reasonable accommodations for disabled veteran students at a state educational institution's fitness facility; (3) develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically to veteran students; (4) develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder; and (5) develop job search programs designed for veteran students. Requires each state educational institution to designate a program coordinator.

Senate Bill 0177 - Tuition rates for veterans

Provides that qualified veterans are eligible for the resident tuition rate for undergraduate courses upon enrolling in a state educational institution not later than 12 months after discharge or separation from the United States armed forces or Indiana National Guard. Requires a qualified veteran to provide to the state educational institution, not later than 12 months after enrolling in the state educational institution, to provide certain information to show that the veteran resides in Indiana. Provides that if the qualified veteran does not provide the required proof of residency: (1) the qualified veteran is subject to the tuition policies established by the state educational institution; and (2) the qualified veteran must repay the state educational institution an amount that equals the difference between the nonresident tuition rate and the tuition rate charged to the qualified veteran during the first 12 months of the qualified veteran's enrollment at the state educational institution. Provides that a qualified veteran who enrolls later than 12 months after the qualified veteran's discharge or separation date is subject to the tuition policies determined by the state educational institution. Provides that qualified veterans who enroll in graduate degree programs are subject to the tuition policies determined by the state educational institution.

Senate Bill 0207 - Resident tuition rate

Establishes certain exceptions to the requirement that an agency or political subdivision verify that an individual applying for state or local public benefits or federal public benefits is a United States citizen or qualified alien. Provides that the law that prohibits resident tuition rate for individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States does not apply to individuals who were enrolled in state educational institutions on or before July 1, 2011. **Provides that**

qualified veterans are eligible for the resident tuition rate for undergraduate courses upon enrolling in a state educational institution not later than 12 months after discharge or separation from the United States armed forces. Requires a qualified veteran to provide to the state educational institution, not later than 12 months after enrolling in the state educational institution to provide certain information to show that the veteran resides in Indiana. Provides that if the qualified veteran does not provide the required proof of residency the qualified veteran is subject to the tuition policies established by the state educational institution.

Senate Bill 0290 and House Bill 1486 - Military trained emergency medical providers

Provides that the emergency medical services commission (commission) shall issue a license or certificate to a military service applicant who meets certain requirements. Allows the commission to issue a temporary practice certificate or provisional license while the military service applicant is satisfying certain requirements as determined by the commission.

Senate Bill 0387 - Parking for persons with disabilities

Increases from \$50 to \$100 the minimum civil judgment imposed for certain infractions involving parking a motor vehicle in a space reserved for a person with a physical disability or **a disabled veteran.**

Senate Bill 0403 - Disabled Hoosier veteran license plate

Provides for the issuance of a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate to a person who: (1) has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (department) as being at least 50% disabled with at least a 30% mobility disability rating; and (2) receives service connected compensation from the department.

Senate Bill 0563 - Various motor vehicle issues

Amends various provisions concerning certificates of title and registrations for motor vehicles and watercraft. Relocates chapter concerning special identification numbers. Amends various provisions concerning license plates. **Exempts recipients of Purple Heart license plates from parking fees and fines.** Amends various provisions relating to abandoned vehicles and mobile homes. Provides that a motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old is not required to have a catalytic converter installed as equipment on the motor vehicle unless a catalytic converter on the motor vehicle is required by certain rules relating to air quality. Makes conforming amendments and technical corrections.

Senate Bill 0564 - Veterans preference on state contracts

Provides that an Indiana veteran owned small business (VOSB) is eligible for the small business set aside procurement policy for state procurements and for procurements by political subdivisions that have adopted the set aside policy. Provides that the 15% price preference for small businesses applies to Indiana VOSBs. Requires the department of administration to adopt rules to increase contracting opportunities for Indiana VOSBs with a goal to procure in each state fiscal year at least 3% of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs. Provides that the Indiana economic development corporation may assist the department of administration: (1) compiling and maintaining a list of Indiana VOSBs; (2) assisting Indiana VOSBs to comply with procedures for bidding on state contracts; (3) helping determine which purchases of supplies or services are consistent with the state's VOSB procurement goal; and (4) simplifying specifications and contract terms to increase opportunities for Indiana VOSB participation in state contracts. Provides for the development of programs to encourage cities, counties, towns, townships, and private businesses to adopt the state's VOSB procurement goal. Requires the department of administration to report on the percentage of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs.

House Bill 1016 - Problem solving courts.

Provides additional circumstances under which a person can participate in a problem solving court program. Provides that a problem solving court may provide rehabilitative services. Simplifies the problem solving court fee transfer process. **Urges the legislative council to require the Commission on Courts to evaluate the funding of veteran's courts during the 2013 interim.**

House Bill 1157 - Various election law matters

Along with many other changes; Makes changes concerning the procedure for processing military and overseas voter absentee ballot applications. Permits a military or overseas voter to transmit an absentee ballot application or a secrecy waiver for an absentee ballot by sending electronic mail with a digital image (rather than an optically scanned image under current law) as an attachment.

House Bill 1279 - Special group, disabled Hoosier veteran, and National Guard license plates.

Creates the special group recognition license plate committee consisting of eight members of the general assembly, and specifies that the primary purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to the bureau of motor vehicles (bureau) regarding special group recognition license plates (plate). Specifies the criteria to be met by a special group for the issuance of a plate. Specifies procedures for continued participation in the special group recognition license plate program by a special group, including sales and renewal requirements. **Provides that a**

person who is an active member of the Army or Air National Guard may apply for and receive one or more National Guard license plates. (Current law requires that the person must be an active member of the Indiana Army or Air National Guard.) Requires the bureau to design a National Guard license plate. Removes the restriction that not more than two disabled Hoosier veteran license plates may be issued to one person. Makes conforming amendments.

House Bill 1387 - Veterans' affairs

Creates the Indiana Funeral Honors Ribbon to be awarded to members and retired members of the Indiana Air National Guard and the Indiana Army National Guard and members of veterans' organizations who: (1) are trained and certified for; and (2) provide honorable and distinguished service in; the performance of military funerals and similar activities within Indiana. Provides that county and city service officers must be certified by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs (department). Requires the veterans' affairs commission to: (1) establish standards for certification of county and city service officers; and (2) establish and administer a written examination for renewal of the certification of county and city service officers. Requires a county or city service officer to obtain certification from the department within 30 days after becoming employed as a service officer. Requires a new county or city service officer, within one year after becoming employed as a service officer, to attend a course and become accredited to represent veterans. Requires a county or city service officer employed prior to July 1, 2013, to attend a course and become accredited to represent veterans by July 1, 2015. Requires the veterans' affairs commission to administer a grant program to reimburse service officers for training expenses and to reimburse counties and cities employing service officers for computer equipment and software. Transfers \$180,000 from the veterans' affairs trust fund to the military family relief fund. Appropriates the \$180,000 for the grant program. Provides that funding the grants is a purpose of the military family relief fund.

2014

Senate Bill 58 - Local appropriations for Memorial Day expenses

Removes an outdated list of veterans organizations from the statute authorizing counties, townships, cities, and towns to appropriate money to veterans organizations to defray the expenses of Memorial Day. Now all Veteran Service Organizations are recognized in The Indiana Code by virtue of the established definition of a VSO.

Senate Bill 180 - Veteran Matters

Sec 1 -Establishes the veterans disability clinic fund to provide funding for grants to qualified law schools that maintain a veterans disability clinic. Sec 2 - Requires the state department of health, in consultation with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs and the division of mental

health and addiction, to study and report findings and recommendations to the legislative council not later than September 1, 2014, concerning implementation of a program for the treatment of veterans who have traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. Sec 3 - Urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate committee during the 2014 interim a study concerning veterans' benefits.

Senate Bill 367 – Various Tax Matters

This 212 page document includes a provision that allows members of the armed services to continue to claim Homestead credit on their Indiana property if they receive orders for duty outside of Indiana for the entire period of time they remain on active duty provided that the residence is not leased.

Senate Bill 331 - Second service for veterans

Establishes the second service for veterans program to attract veteran students to the teaching profession. Requires a state educational institution to adopt a policy to award educational credit to a veteran or an individual serving in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard who completes courses: (1) at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or association; and (2) that meet the state educational institution's role, scope, and mission. Requires a state educational institution to adopt a policy to award educational credit to a veteran or an individual serving in the armed .

Senate Bill 352 - Military family relief fund

Removes the provision that limits to three years the time during which an Indiana qualified post 9-11 service member or a dependent is eligible to receive assistance from the military family relief fund. Gives priority to Indiana qualified service members or dependents who have never received a grant from the military family relief fund. Requires the veterans' affairs commission, subject to the approval of the budget agency, to set a maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year.

Senate Bill 354 - Hoosier women veterans program

Establishes the Hoosier women veterans program to provide information and services to Indiana's women veterans. Allows a county executive to appoint a county service officer for a four (4) year term.

House Bill 1041 - Oaths and acknowledgment of documents

Allows the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, specific active duty members, reserve duty members, or civilian employees of the Indiana National Guard designated by the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, to subscribe and administer oaths and take acknowledgments of all documents related to the service of an active or reserve duty member of the Indiana National Guard.

House Bill 1237 - Bureau of motor vehicles fees

Amends and codifies various bureau of motor vehicle (BMV) fees. Authorizes the BMV to modify a Purple Heart license plate for issuance to an individual who is eligible for both a Purple Heart license plate and a disability placard or license plate.

House Bill 1242 - Employment discrimination against veterans

Provides that it is an unlawful employment practice (practice) for an employer to discriminate against a prospective employee on the basis of status as a veteran by: (1) refusing to employ an applicant for employment on the basis that the applicant is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States; or (2) refusing to employ an applicant for employment on the basis that the applicant is a member of the Indiana national guard or member of a reserve component. Requires the Indiana civil rights commission to enforce alleged violations of the practice. Requires the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to disseminate information necessary to inform veterans of the practice.

2015

Senate Bill 280 - Military designation on driver's licenses and ID cards.

Provides that an individual may request an indication of the individual's veteran status or active military or naval service status on the individual's driver's license or state identification card. (Current law provides only for an indication of veteran status.)

Senate Bill 298 - Voluntary veterans' preference employment policy.

Provides for a voluntary veterans' preference policy for hiring, promoting, or retaining a veteran in private employment.

Senate Bill 434 - Financial aid and tuition.

Provides that a person who: (1) is a nonresident; (2) is a member of the Indiana National Guard; and (3) attends a state educational institution; is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate for undergraduate and graduate courses. Provides that certain: (1) veterans; and (2) persons who serve on active military duty; are eligible to pay the resident tuition rate for graduate courses. Provides that the commission for higher education: (1) may consider only the residency status of a student; and (2) may not consider the residency status of the student's parents or legal guardian even

Senate Bill 441 - Various tax matters.

Eliminates the World War I veteran property tax deduction for property taxes imposed for an assessment date after 2015.

Senate Issues covered by Budget funding

Veterans Problem-Solving Courts were funded at \$500K in 2015 and 2016 for the establishment, training, and certification of these courts, if requested. Courts may consider as mitigating circumstances PTSD and TBI during sentencing and probation. The funding of IDVA includes \$ to establish a women's veteran service officer.

House Bill 1131 - Exemption of military reservists from jury duty.

Provides that an individual who serves on reserve duty in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard while on military orders is exempt from jury duty.

House Bill 1333 - Higher education financial assistance.

Removes Indiana residency requirements for scholarships under the National Guard tuition supplement program and the National Guard scholarship extension program. Requires applicants for the National Guard tuition supplement program and the National Guard scholarship extension program to have used any available state or federal assistance, if applicable. Establishes cumulative grade point average requirements for the renewal of scholarships under the National Guard tuition supplement program. Provides that an applicant is eligible for a first year higher education award if the applicant is ineligible for a National Guard tuition supplement grant or a scholarship under the National Guard scholarship extension program. Amends the cumulative grade point average requirements for certain tuition and fee exemptions for children of veterans. Amends the definition of "eligible student" for purposes of the employment aid readiness network (EARN) Indiana program

House Bill 1456 - Servicemembers civil relief act.

Creates the servicemembers civil relief act. Provides that protections under Indiana's civil relief act supplement protections for servicemembers under the federal servicemembers civil relief act.

2016

Senate Bill 145 - Unclaimed remains of veterans.

Requires the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to: (1) establish standards for approval of veterans' service organizations; (2) maintain a list of approved veterans' service organizations; and (3) publish the list on the department's Internet web site. Allows a licensed funeral director to release: (1) verification information as to whether a veteran or dependent of a veteran is eligible for burial in a state or national cemetery; and (2) cremated remains; to a veterans' service organization if certain conditions apply. Requires a veterans' service organization to: (1) transport cremated remains to a state or national cemetery; (2) inter, entomb, or inurn cremated remains in a state or national cemetery in accordance with applicable state and federal law; and (3) provide written information concerning the location of the cremated remains to a funeral director. Establishes certain immunity from civil liability for veterans' service organizations and funeral directors.

Senate Bill 154 - Indiana national guardsmen funeral allowance.

Increases from \$4,000 to \$8,800 the funeral allowance for a member of the Indiana national guard who dies in the active service of the state.

Senate Bill 189 - Identifier for military children.

Provides that information concerning attendance records and academic progress for a student attending an adult high school who is a member of the military or children in military families must be submitted to the department of education by each school corporation and charter school. Provides that the information collected by a school corporation or charter school is considered confidential and shall be collected by the school corporation or charter school under guidelines for maintaining confidentiality established by the department.

Senate Bill 219 - Expedited licenses for military spouses.

Requires certain profession and occupation boards (boards) to adopt rules that establish procedures to expedite the issuance or renewal of a license, certificate, registration, or permit to a military spouse whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana. Repeals

superseded provisions that allowed (but did not require) the boards to adopt expedited issuance and renewal rules. Provides that any rules adopted under the repealed statutes remain effective until the board adopts a rule that supersedes the original rule in whole or in part.

Senate Bill 295- Military family relief fund.

Requires that state income tax forms be modified to enable a taxpayer to donate all or part of the taxpayer's tax refund to the military family relief fund (fund). Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission to submit an annual report to the governor and the legislative council on matters concerning the welfare of veterans. Requires an individual employed as a county or city service officer to become accredited by a national veterans service organization through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel not later than one year from the date of the individual's employment, in order to represent veterans. Amends the definition of "qualified service member" for purposes of the fund. Amends the purpose of the fund to provide only for short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for hardships that result from the qualified service members' military service. Specifies that the assistance from the fund may include an emergency one time grant. Specifies statutory eligibility provisions concerning grants from the fund, to be supplemented with rules adopted by the Indiana veterans' affairs commission (commission). Provides that the commission shall adopt income eligibility standards, asset limit eligibility standards, and other standards concerning when assistance may be provided from the fund. Provides that the commission's rules must provide for a consideration of the extent to which an individual has used assistance available from other assistance programs before assistance may be provided to the individual from the fund. Specifies that the veterans' affairs trust fund is considered a trust fund for purposes of the statute prohibiting the state board of finance from transferring money from a trust fund. Includes a county service officer appointed by the governor in the membership of the Indiana veterans' affairs commission. Provides that the commission shall annually determine by formula whether there is excess money in the veterans' affairs trust fund and transfer that excess, if any, to the fund. Urges the legislative council to assign to a study committee the topic of whether or not grants for assistance from the military family relief fund should be paid directly to vendors on behalf of a qualified service member or dependents of the qualified service member. Provides that the study committee shall issue a final report to the legislative council containing the study committee's findings and recommendations not later than November 1, 2016.

Senate Bill 304 – Property tax matters.

For the January 1, 2017, assessment date, increases the assessed value limit for the property tax deduction for certain veterans with a disability from \$143,160 to \$175,000. Provides that an individual may claim a deduction from the assessed value of the individual's homestead if: (1) the individual served in the military or naval forces of the United States; (2) the individual received an honorable discharge; (3) the individual has a disability of at least 50%; (4) the

individual's disability is evidenced by a pension certificate or an award of compensation issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or by a certificate of eligibility issued to the individual by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs; and (5) the homestead was conveyed without charge to the individual who is the owner of the homestead by an organization that is exempt from income taxation under the federal Internal Revenue Code. Specifies that a property continues to qualify as a homestead if the property is leased while the owner is away from Indiana serving on active duty in the armed forces, if the individual has lived at the property at any time during the past 10 years. (Current law specifies that a property ceases to qualify as a homestead if the property is leased while such an individual is away from Indiana.)

Senate Bill 362- Employment of national guard members and veterans.

Extends employment protections under the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and extends the rights, benefits, and protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to members of the national guard of another state during state sponsored activation. Expands the definition of "photographic identification" to include identification documents issued by the United States or a state or territory of the United States. Allows military discharge records to be released to a person in possession of photographic identification and: (1) a power of attorney; (2) a court order appointing a guardian; or (3) a court order appointing a personal representative.

House Bill 1089 - Veteran service officers.

Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission to submit an annual report to the governor and the legislative council on matters concerning the welfare of veterans. Allows the mayor of a city to employ a service officer to serve the veterans of the city. Includes a county service officer appointed by the governor in the membership of the Indiana veterans' affairs commission. Urges the legislative council to assign to a study committee the topic of district service officers. Provides that the study committee shall issue a final report to the legislative council containing the study committee's findings and recommendations not later than Nov 1, 2016.

House Bill 1187 - Stolen valor.

Makes it committing stolen valor, a Class A misdemeanor (instead of a Level 6 felony), for a person to knowingly or intentionally, with the intent to obtain money, property, or another benefit: (1) fraudulently represent himself or herself to be an active member or veteran of the armed forces of the United States; (2) use falsified military identification; or (3) fraudulently claim to be the recipient of certain military honors.

House Bill 1271 - Child abuse or neglect allegations in military families.

Requires the department of child services (department) to notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program (program) if a child of an active duty member of the military is the subject of a substantiated investigation of abuse or neglect. Requires the department to make the assessment report available to the program upon request. Allows the department to seek assistance of the program in providing services.

House Bill 1272 - Professional licensing matters.

Requires a practitioner to provide the Indiana professional licensing agency (agency) and the practitioner's specific board with certain information concerning continuing education. (Current law requires a practitioner to provide the information to a specific board.) Allows an individual who holds a professional or occupational license and is called to active duty to fulfill all continuing education requirements through distance learning.

House Bill 1312 - Veteran business enterprises.

Defines "veteran", for the purpose of qualifying as a veteran owned small business by the Indiana department of administration, as an individual who previously: (1) served on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, (2) the National Guard, or (3) the Indiana National Guard; and received an honorable discharge from service. Includes in the definition of "veteran" for the purpose of qualifying as a veteran owned small business by the Indiana department of administration an individual who is serving in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, the national guard, or the Indiana National Guard. Requires that a business seeking to qualify as a small business owned and operated by veterans have current certification as a veteran owned small business by the Indiana department of administration. Removes the requirement that a veteran be a resident of Indiana for at least one year before making an offer to bid on a state contract. Provides that certain information submitted by an applicant for certification as a veteran owned small business is confidential.

House Bill 1313 - Hoosier veterans.

Establishes a definition for "Hoosier veteran" that is applicable throughout the Indiana Code when used in reference to state programs for veterans. Amends the definition of Hoosier veteran to include an individual who: (1) is a resident of Indiana; (2) served in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard; and (3) completed any required military occupational specialty training and was not discharged or separated from the armed forces or the Indiana National Guard under dishonorable or other than honorable conditions.

House Bill 1359 - Employment of veterans as public safety officers.

Waives the maximum hiring age restrictions that apply to the appointment and hiring of police officers and firefighters for an individual who is a veteran of the armed forces and who meets certain requirements. Provides that an individual who is appointed as a police officer or a firefighter as the result of a waiver is eligible to become a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund). Requires a member of the 1977 fund to retire at 70 years of age.

House Bill 1373 - Employment of veterans.

Extends employment protections under the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and extends the rights, benefits, and protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to members of the national guard of another state during state sponsored activation. Allows an individual (and the individual's dependent) who is: (1) an active member of the armed services of the United States or the national guard; (2) a legal Indiana resident; (3) assigned for duty or deployed outside Indiana; and (4) eligible for Medicaid waiver services or Medicaid assistance; to resume Medicaid eligibility and remain on Medicaid waiver waiting lists.

2017

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

2018

Senate Bill 96 - Veterans pilot program. (HBOT)

- Extends to 2020 the veterans pilot program that provides assistance for certain providers to provide diagnostic testing and hyperbaric oxygen treatment to veterans.
- Allows the state department of health to select and approve up to five (5) providers to provide diagnostic testing and hyperbaric oxygen treatment to veterans receiving treatment under the program.
- Requires providers to perform services at cost out of the grant amount awarded to the provider.
- Removes the restriction on when a veteran's injury occurred in order for the veteran to receive treatment under the program.
- Requires providers to quarterly file a status report concerning the services provided by the provider with the state department of health, the department of veterans' affairs (department), the chairperson of the house committee on veterans affairs and public safety, and the chairperson of the senate committee on veterans affairs and the military.
- Requires the department, in collaboration with the state department of health, to prepare a final report at the conclusion of the pilot program and transmit the report to the governor, the leadership of the legislative council, the chairperson of the house committee on veterans affairs and public safety, and the chairperson of the senate committee on veterans affairs and the military.
- Requires the final report to be made available on the department's Internet website.
- Provides immunity for providers of services under the program.
- Reduced grant to \$500,000 from \$1 Million. *This was caused because the State Department of Health and Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs not have the rules completed as required in the 2017 law.*
- Retains the 10% patient copay.

Senate Bill 134 - Licensing veterans organizations in charity gaming.

Allows the gaming commission to issue a three year charity gaming license to qualified organizations that are veterans organizations. Urges the legislative council to assign to a study committee the topic of whether an event operator or a worker at the event may receive remuneration or a meal or conducting or assisting in conducting the event.

Senate Bill 262 - Veterans matters. (Placard for disabled veteran)

Requires the bureau of motor vehicles to issue a permanent parking placard to a disabled Hoosier Veteran when requested and the veteran has or is receiving a Hoosier Disabled Veteran Plate.

House Bill 1047 – Education benefits for veterans.

Excludes from the determination of financial eligibility for need based financial aid certain benefits received by veteran students. Provides for state educational institution students who are members of the Indiana National Guard or the reserves and are called to active duty during an academic term to receive: (1) a tuition refund or credit; or (2) reenrollment in courses not completed due to active duty status.

House Bill 1242 - Resident tuition for serving on the USS Indiana.

Provides that, after June 30, 2019, certain persons who serve or served on the USS Indiana (SSN-789) are eligible for the resident tuition rate determined by the state educational institution.

House Bill 1402 – Veterans matters. (Housing / Vet Courts)

Urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate study committee topics related to implementing a program to provide property tax incentives for rental property owners who partner with nonprofit organizations to reduce veteran homelessness. Urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate study committee topics related to establishing an electronic system to provide the Indiana department of veterans' affairs, in collaboration with the national guard (as defined in IC 10-16-1-13), with criminal case information.

2019

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. Repeals and relocates, with changes to the eligibility requirements, the following individuals exempted from educational costs at state educational institutions: (1) 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). (2) 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.