**Veteran Related Bills for 2020 Session**

As of – Feb 13 See https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/ for details

**Senate Bills**

**Senate Bill 12 - Resident tuition rate for active duty personnel.**

Authored bySen. Phillip Boots Sponsor: Rep. Burton

House Committee - Education

Status: Referred to House

Makes the following changes to provisions concerning resident tuition rate eligibility for active duty armed forces personnel and dependents of active duty armed forces personnel: (1) Defines "dependent". (2) Clarifies the definition of "qualified course". (3) Provides that spouses of active duty armed forces personnel are eligible for the resident tuition rate. (4) Clarifies that a dependent or spouse of a person who serves on active duty in the armed forces is eligible for the resident tuition rate for the duration of the spouse's or dependent's continuous enrollment at a state educational institution regardless of whether the person serving on active duty continues, after the spouse or dependent enrolls in the state educational institution, to satisfy certain resident rate tuition eligibility criteria.

**Senate Bill 72 - Hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program.**

Authored bySen. James Tomes Sponsors: Reps. Randy Frye and Ron Bacon

House Committee – Ways and Means

Status: Referred to House

Removes the requirement that rules adopted by the state department of health, in consultation with the department of veterans' affairs, include patient health improvement as a condition for approval of payment for treatment under the hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program (pilot program). Removes the requirement that the state department of health receive pretreatment and posttreatment evaluation documentation as a condition for approval of payment for hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Requires that rules adopted by the state department of health concerning the pilot program not include criteria requiring patient health improvement as a condition for approval of payment for treatment.

**Senate Bill 307 - National guard life insurance program**.

Authored bySen. James Tomes Sponsor: Rep. Frye

House Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Status: Second reading 13 Feb. Engrossed

Requires the adjutant general of the Indiana NG to facilitate the state sponsored group term life insurance program for members of the Indiana National Guard.

**Senate Bill 316 - Collection of veteran status information.**

Authored bySens. Dennis Kruse and James Buck Sponsor Rep. Zent

House Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Status: Committee hearing planned for Feb 18

Requires the family and social services administration, the department of education, the commission for higher education, the department of workforce development, and the professional licensing agency to include in an application for a benefit, financial assistance, a service, or a professional credential questions asking: (1) "Have you served in the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard?". (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?". Provides that the applications must state that the applicant has the option to decline to answer the questions. Requires the agencies to keep the information submitted in a data base and to share the information with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs. Allows the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to use the shared information to develop outreach programs for veterans and their families.

**Senate Bill 331 - National guard license plates**

Authored bySen. Andy Zay Sponsors: Reps. Judy and Bartels

House Committee – Roads and Transportation

Status: Referred to House

Extends eligibility for National Guard license plates to retired members of the National Guard

**Senate Bill 395 – Uniform Consumer Credit Code**

Authored bySen. Eric Bassler Sponsor: Rep Burton

House Committee - Financial Institutions

Status: Referred to House

The good : Allowing 36% on large, longer-term loans has been removed from the bill. The bill still bans most precomputation of interest for those who pay off/refinance early.

The bad :

   The bill now allows substantially increased up-front nonrefundable fees for original loans, refinanced loans, and for loan consolidation.  The original SB 395 increased these fees from $50 to $150 per transaction. As amended, SB 395 allows fees of $75 for loans under $2000, $150 for loans $2000-$4000, and $250 for amounts over $4000.

   These fees are allowed for both consumer credit sales (e.g. furniture, buy here/pay here sales) and for consumer loans.

   Alarming: The fees allowed on consumer credit sales appear to be unlimited in number, unlike in the consumer lending part of the code where these can only be charged two times per year.

   Lenders are allowed to roll existing borrowers into new loans to charge the new fees [previously, there was language in the bill attempting to prevent this]

   The bill also doubles the fee (from $1.50 to $3.00) to pay for rental purchases by phone.

**House Bills**

**House Bill 1045 - Display of Honor and Remember flag**.

Authored byRep. David Abbott Sponsor: Sen. Susan Glick

Senate Committee –

Status: Referred to Senate

Requires the Honor and Remember flag to be displayed at each state office building, the state cemetery, and each veterans cemetery managed by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs during the month of May annually.

**House Bill 1081 - Commission for supplier diversity.**

Authored byRep. Doug Gutwein Sponsor: Sen. Erin Houchin

Senate Committee – Public Policy

Status: Referred to Senate

Changes the name of the governor's commission on minority and women's business enterprises to the governor's commission on supplier diversity (commission). Relocates provisions concerning small businesses owned and operated by Indiana veterans to the commission's statutes. Makes conforming changes.

**House Bill 1091 - Education benefits relating to military service**

Authored byRep. Anthony Cook Sponsor: Sen. Dennis Kruse

Senate Committee – Education and Career Development

Status: Committee Hearing 12 Feb, will vote 19 Feb

Provides that a student meets the residency requirements for enrollment at a public school if the parent of the student: (1) is transferred to or is pending transfer to a military installation within Indiana while on active duty pursuant to an official military order; and (2) submits to the public school certain information, including official documentation, as determined by the state board of education, regarding the transfer or pending transfer. Provides that the student is considered to have legal settlement in the attendance area of the school corporation in which the parent: (1) has submitted the required application and documentation; and (2) intends to reside. Requires a parent who is transferred to or is pending transfer to a military installation within Indiana to provide proof of residence to the public school not later than 10 instructional days after the arrival date provided on the required documentation. Provides that if the parent of the student fails to provide the proof of residence, the public school may exclude the student from attendance pending an expulsion proceeding. Makes the following changes to provisions concerning resident tuition rate eligibility for active duty armed forces personnel and dependents of active duty armed forces personnel: (1) Defines "dependent". (2) Amends the definition of "qualified course". (3) Provides that spouses of active duty armed forces personnel are eligible for the resident tuition rate. (4) Provides that spouses and dependents of active duty armed forces personnel are eligible, from the date that the state educational institution accepts the spouse or dependent for enrollment, for the resident tuition rate if the spouse or dependent enrolls in the state educational institution within a certain amount of time. (5) Provides that a dependent or spouse of a person who serves on active duty in the armed forces is eligible for the resident tuition rate for the duration of the spouse's or dependent's continuous enrollment at a state educational institution regardless of whether the person serving on active duty continues, after the spouse or dependent is accepted for enrollment in the state educational institution, to satisfy certain resident rate tuition eligibility criteria

**House Bill 1173 - Indiana department of veterans' affairs.**

Authored byRep. Randy Frye Sponsor: Sen. Tomes

Senate Committee – Veterans Affairs and the Military

Status: Committee hearing planned for Feb 18

Specifies that state veteran service officers are subject to the same requirements as county and city veteran service officers. Changes the five year residency requirement for the director of veterans' affairs from the years immediately preceding the appointment to five cumulative years preceding the appointment. Allows county recorders to keep an electronic record of discharges. Revises certain program eligibility provisions to reference participants more precisely. Repeals statutes related to unused programs. Makes technical changes.

**House Concurrent Resolution 11**

Authored by Rep. Dennis Zent Sponsors: Sens. Glick, Tomes, Niezgodski.

Senate Committee – Homeland Security and Transportation

Status: Adopted by Senate 13 Feb. Returned to House

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the creation of a Medal of Honor Memorial Highway in Indiana

**This list is provided by The Military / Veterans Coalition of Indiana**