Veteran Related Bills for 2021 Session

As of – Feb 2 See https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2021/bills/ for details

Senate Bill 11 - Collection of veteran status information.

Authored bySen. Dennis Kruse

Committee – Veterans Affairs and the Military

Status – 12 Jan Hearing, Do Pass. Reassigned to Appropriations

Requires the family and social services administration, the department of education, the commission for higher education, and the professional licensing agency to include the following questions in an application for a benefit, financial assistance, a service, or a professional credential: (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 18 - Disabled veteran renter's deduction.

Authored bySen. Susan Glick

Committee – Veterans Affairs and the Military

Status – 12 Jan Hearing, Do Pass. Reassigned to Tax & Fiscal Policy

Provides an income tax deduction, in addition to the current renter's deduction, to a disabled veteran who rents a dwelling as a principal place of residence. Provides that the additional deduction is equal to the amount the individual is entitled to deduct under the current renter's deduction multiplied by the individual's service connected disability rating.

Senate Bill 90 - Electronic gaming in veterans' service organizations.

Authored bySen. James Tomes

Committee – Public Policy

Authorizes wagering on video gaming terminals in licensed congressionally chartered veterans' service organizations. Establishes a licensing structure for participants in video gaming. Provides funding to the department of veterans' affairs for grants for veterans' services.

Senate Bill 91 -. Hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program.

Authored bySens. James Tomes, Philip Boots, and Chris Garten

Committee – Veterans Affairs and the Military

Status – 2 Feb Hearing, Do Pass. Reassigned to Appropriations

Extends the expiration date of the hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program for veterans from June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2025. Provides that certain: (1) billing documentation; or (2) attendance documentation; may be used to authenticate the receipt of hyperbaric oxygen treatments for the purpose of payment approval by the department of veterans' affairs. Removes a provision that requires the state department of health to request proposals concerning hyperbaric oxygen treatment from certain geographic areas of Indiana. Specifies that a certain appropriation does not revert to the state general fund until July 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 93 -. Tuition charges for veterans.

Authored bySen. Philip Boots

Committee – Education

Status – 13 Jan Hearing Do Pass. Up for 2nd Reading.

Provides that a: (1) qualified nonresident veteran; or (2) spouse or dependent of a qualified nonresident veteran; who enrolls in a state educational institution not later than three years after the date of the qualified nonresident veteran's discharge or separation from the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate at a state educational institution. Establishes requirements for eligibility.

Senate Bill 184 -. Small loan finance charges.

Authored bySen. Greg Walker

Committee – Insurance and Financial Institutions

Changes the current incremental finance charge limits that apply to a small loan to a maximum annual rate of 36%. Prohibits making, or taking other actions with respect to, a small loan with a greater rate or amount of interest, or other fees and charges, than allowed under the statute governing small loans. Prohibits a credit services organization from providing certain functions with respect to a small loan and makes a violation a deceptive act.

Senate Bill 267 -. Video gaming terminals.

Authored bySens. Susan Glick and James Tomes

Committee – Public Policy

Establishes the county service officers grant fund to provide grants to fund county service officers. Authorizes wagering on video gaming terminals in licensed congressionally chartered veterans' service organizations. Establishes a licensing structure for participants in video gaming.

Senate Bill 316 -. Military and veterans matters.

Authored bySens. Chris Garten, James Tomes, Phil Boots, and Scott Baldwin

Committee – Veterans Affairs and the Military

Status – 26 Jan & 2 Feb Hearing, Do Pass.

Changes the definition of a "qualified service member" for purposes of eligibility under the military relief fund (fund). Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission (commission) to: (1) develop and adopt a policy listing the disallowable separation codes of each branch of the armed forces; and (2) review the policy for amendment and adopt any necessary amendments before July 1 of each year. Provides that the department of veterans' affairs (department) may use not more than 15% of the average annual license plate revenue to cover monthly administrative costs. Provides that the department may deny an incomplete application for a grant under the fund if all required documentation is not received within 30 days after the date the applicant filed the application. Provides that, if an applicant appeals a denial of tuition and fee exemption benefits (benefits) not later than 15 days before the start of the semester for which the benefits would apply, the commission shall make reasonable effort to issue a final order before the start of the semester.

Other Senate Bills of Interest:

SB 45 - Prohibition on flavored e-liquids.

SB 214 - Housing tax credits.

SB 223 - Marijuana legalization.

SB 245 - Type II gaming and charity gaming.

SB 320 - Eligibility for resident tuition rate.

SB 321 - Marijuana and medical cannabis matters.

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House Bill 1039 - Military award license plates

Authored byReps. Chris Judy, David Abbott, Randy Frye, and Robert Morris

Committee – Roads and Transportation

Status – 12 Jan Hearing. Amended, Do Pass. Up for 2nd Reading

Provides that the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient may retain the Purple Heart specialty license plate as long as the surviving spouse does not remarry. Specifies that the surviving spouse is not eligible to receive a modified disability registration plate. Establishes the Armed forces Expeditionary Medial specialty license plate.

House Bill 1063 -. Renter's tax deduction for disabled veterans.

Authored byRep. Mike Aylesworth

Committee – Ways and Means

Allows a disabled veteran who rents a dwelling for use as the disabled veteran's principal place of residence to claim an additional renter's deduction from the disabled veteran's adjusted gross income. Provides that the additional deduction may not exceed $3,000.

House Bill 1071 -. Expeditionary veterans license plate.

Authored byRep. Mike Aylesworth

Committee – Roads and Transportation

Status – Added to HB 1039

Establishes the expeditionary veterans license plate.

House Bill 1085 -. Eligibility for National Guard supplemental grant.

Authored byReps. Dave Heine, Michelle Davis, and Karen Engleman

Committee – Education

Provides that the National Guard tuition supplement program may be used by a scholarship applicant for graduate credits.

House Bill 1104 -. Hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program.

Authored byRep. Dennis Zent

Committee – Public Health

Extends the expiration date of the hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program for veterans from June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2025. Provides that certain: (1) billing documentation; or (2) attendance documentation; may be used to authenticate the receipt of hyperbaric oxygen treatments for the purpose of payment approval by the department of veterans' affairs. Removes a provision that requires the state department of health to request proposals concerning hyperbaric oxygen treatment from certain geographic areas of Indiana. Specifies that a certain appropriation does not revert to the state general fund until July 1, 2025.

House Bill 1122 -. Veterans' property tax deduction.

Authored byReps. Heath VanNatter, Sharon Negele, and Ryan Hatfield

Committee – Ways and Means

Eliminates the assessed value cap that applies to the property tax deduction for a veteran who: (1) has a total disability; or (2) is at least 62 years of age and has at least a 10% disability.

House Bill 1174 -. Taxation of military personnel deployed overseas.

Authored byRep. Sheila Klinker

Committee – Ways and Means

Provides that for a member of the armed forces deployed or stationed outside of the United States, the individual's tax rate for the income attributable to that military service is 1.62% (instead of 3.23%).

House Bill 1251 -. Educational costs exemption.

Authored byRep. Ryan Lauer

Committee – Education

Provides that an applicant is not eligible for educational costs exemptions for any courses taken by the applicant after the applicant has sufficient credit hours to obtain a baccalaureate degree from a state educational institution. Repeals a provision that limits the educational costs exemption amount for a person whose parent enlisted or initially served in the armed forces after June 30, 2011, based on the percentage of the parent's disability rating. Makes conforming changes.

House Bill 1242 -. Access to military records.

Authored byReps. Jeff Ellington, Dennis Zent, and David Abbott

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Provides that any person may request the discharge records of a veteran if the veteran has been discharged for at least 62 years.

House Bill 1264 -. Veterans' affairs.

Authored byRep. Steve Bartels

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Status – In Committee – On Hold

Provides that funds from the military family relief fund (fund) may be used to provide short term financial assistance, including emergency one time grants, to the families of eligible members of the armed forces. Removes financial hardship as a prerequisite for fund eligibility. Specifies disqualifying behavior for fund eligibility. Removes a provision requiring service during wartime or a national conflict as a prerequisite for fund eligibility. Removes a provision that prohibits service members with less than 12 months of service from receiving grants from the fund. Removes a provision prohibiting the Indiana veterans' affairs commission from acting on an incomplete application. Provides that the department of veterans' affairs (department) may use not more than 15% of the monthly revenue generated by the fund for the purpose of paying administrative costs associated with the operation of the fund. Allows the department to deny certain applications if the required documentation is not received within 30 days of an application's first submission. Increases certain deadlines from 15 days to 45 days. Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission to issue a final order concerning the denial of certain tuition and fee exemption benefits in certain instances. Defines certain terms. Makes conforming amendments. Makes a technical correction

House Bill 1352 -. Disabled veteran's hiring preferences. (Ask the ?)

Authored byRep. Mike Speedy

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission to provide veterans with a list of: (1) services available to veterans in Indiana; (2) state agencies that offer services to veterans in Indiana; and (3) the telephone numbers, Internet web sites, and addresses of the agencies that offer services to veterans. Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services, the department of education, the commission for higher education, the department of workforce development, and the professional licensing agency (agencies) 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.

House Bill 1346 -. Income tax exemption for veterans at least 78 years of age.

Authored byReps. Tony Cook, Randy Frye, Chris Judy, and Doug Gutwein

Committee – Ways and Means

Provides a tax exemption from adjusted gross income for an individual who is at least 78 years of age and has served in the military during a time of war.

House Bill 1355 - Collection of veteran status information.

Authored byRep. Mike Speedy

Committee – Ways and Means

Requires the family and social services administration, the department of education, the commission for higher education, and the professional licensing agency (agencies) to include the following questions in an application for a benefit, financial assistance, a service, or a professional credential: (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.

House Bill 1392 -. Licensure of military spouses.

Authored byReps. Dennis Zent, Chris Judy, and Randy Frye

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Amends the law concerning provisional occupational licenses for spouses of active duty members of the armed forces assigned to Indiana to eliminate a provision under which a military spouse applying for a provisional license is required to submit to a national criminal history background check. Provides instead that a military spouse applying for a provisional license must be determined by the appropriate board not to have a disqualifying criminal history if a national criminal history background check is required for the regulated occupation for which the military spouse seeks a license.

House Bill 1450 - Military family occupational licenses.

Authored byReps. Chris May and Steve Bartels

Committee – Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Provides that a military service applicant who has held an occupational license, certification, registration, or permit (license) in another jurisdiction for at least one year may qualify for an Indiana license. Removes the requirement that an applicant have a license for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application. Provides that an applicant may not have a complaint or investigation pending before an occupational licensing board that relates to unprofessional conduct or an alleged crime. Provides that a military member's dependent may apply for an occupational license under the same conditions as a military member's spouse. Requires the board to issue a license to an applicant upon application based on work experience in another state if certain conditions are met. Allows an applicant to appeal a final determination of the board. Makes a technical correction.

House Bill 1451 - Local veteran service officers.

Authored byRep. Chris May

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Provides that a county or city service officer hired after June 30, 2021, must: (1) be an honorably discharged veteran who has at least six months of active service in the armed forces of the United States; and (2) have resided in Indiana for at least two years before submitting an application for employment as a county or city service officer. (Current law permits a county or city service officer to have experience as a service officer assistant in lieu of being an honorably discharged veteran and permits nonresidents of Indiana to be hired upon the condition of establishing residence in Indiana within six months.) Makes conforming changes to the employment requirements for service officer assistants hired after June 30, 2021.

House Bill 1568 - Veteran and military benefits for PFAS exposure.

Authored byRep. Maureen Bauer

Committee – Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

Establishes the PFAS chemical blood testing program under the Indiana department of veterans' affairs (department) for the purpose of blood testing: (1) veterans; (2) current members of the armed forces of the United States or of active or reserve components of the Indiana National Guard or Indiana Air National Guard; and (3) civilian personnel on certain military bases in Indiana; to determine whether there is a higher concentration of PFAS chemicals in the blood of those persons. Provides that not later than November 1 of each year, the Indiana veterans' affairs commission shall report to the legislative council on the results of the PFAS blood testing program with respect to the most recent state fiscal year.

Other House Bills of Interest:

HB 1028 - Marijuana.

HB 1036 – Housing Tax Credits

HB 1076 - Ban on sale of flavored tobacco and e-liquids.

HB 1086 - Resident tuition for eligible individuals.

HB 1117 - Decriminalization of marijuana.

HB 1136 – Paid family and medical leave program.

HB 1154 - Cannabis legalization.

HB 1214 - Medical marijuana.

HB 1335 – Video Gaming Terminals

HB 1411 – Consumer Loan finance Charges

HB 1547 – Medical Cannabis