

Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

Senator Jack Harper, Chairman



Bill Boyd, Research Analyst
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VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

LEGISLATION ENACTED

adjutant general retirement (S.B. 1008) – Chapter 20

Adjusts the retirement age for the state Adjutant General to conform to the retirement age provided by federal law.

enduring freedom memorial; public monies. (S.B. 1020) – Chapter 111 E

An emergency measure, effective July 10, 2009, that allows monies from the Veterans' Donation Fund to be used to complete the Enduring Freedom Memorial and extends to December 31, 2013, the deadline to complete a Bill of Rights Memorial to be located in Wesley Bolin Plaza.

military family relief fund (S.B. 1176) – Chapter 24 E

An emergency measure, effective July 9, 2009, that allows active and retired senior enlisted military personnel to serve on the Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee (Committee) and allows the Committee to establish a subcommittee to review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Committee regarding applications for assistance.

Allows widows, widowers or dependent children of service members who died while serving in a combat zone to apply for a stipend of up to \$10,000 for living expenses. An immediate family member may apply for the cost of living near a medical facility where a service member is being treated for the duration of the service members' treatment.

Stipulates that military members of an applying family must have been deceased, wounded, injured or become seriously ill after September 11, 2001, and must have: a) deployed from a military base in Arizona; b) entered military service in Arizona; c) been a member of the Arizona National Guard; or d) claimed Arizona as their home of record.

Allows the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to use five percent of the donations received by the Military Family Relief Fund (Fund) for administrative purposes and clarifies that donations to the Fund that qualify as a tax credit are subject to statutory limitations on those tax credits.

homeland security councils; coordinating; advisory (S.B. 1178) – Chapter 25

Eliminates the Department of Homeland Security Coordinating Council and establishes the Senior Advisory Committee (Committee) to enhance integration of disciplines involved in homeland security and allows Legislative members of the Committee to assign proxies.

Increases Regional Advisory Council (RAC) membership to 14 and members' terms to three years and modifies qualifications for members. Stipulates that, of the members of a RAC, only a county sheriff, a mayor and a county supervisor may assign proxies.

health spa contracts; military members (S.B. 1407) – Chapter 30

Allows a military member serving on active duty deployed outside the state to cancel or suspend a health spa membership contract and prohibits a health spa from charging fees or altering a member's financial terms upon reinstatement of a suspended membership contract.

A request to cancel or suspend a health spa membership must be provided in writing and include an official copy of the member's military orders or written verification from their commanding officer.

Arizona medal of honor (S.B. 1429) – Chapter 31

Creates the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal and establishes procedures and guidelines for awarding the medal.

state monuments; repair fund; purpose. (H.B. 2001) – Chapter 13

Extends to December 31, 2013, the deadline for completion of a Bill of Rights Memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza. Specifies that monies required to be deposited in the State Monument and Memorial Repair Fund by the proponents of a monument or memorial are dedicated to the maintenance of that monument or memorial.

honorary diplomas; war veterans (H.B. 2450) – Chapter 19

Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules that provide for the presentation of honorary high school diplomas to veterans who live in Arizona and served in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict.

in-state tuition; veterans (H.B. 2495) – Chapter 91

Classifies an honorably discharged military person who served on an Arizona military installation in Arizona as an in-state student, regardless of the length of time the person was domiciled in the state.

LEGISLATION VETOED

~~state monuments; repair fund; purpose.~~ (NOW: political signs; tampering) (S.B. 1022) – VETOED

Specifies the following apply to the state or any city, town or county: 1) prohibiting the removal of a political sign under certain conditions, unless the placement of the sign is deemed an emergency; 2) allowing the adoption of policies that prohibit the installation of a sign on structures owned by the jurisdiction; and 3) providing notification guidelines relating to the removal, relocation or prohibition of signs.

In her veto message, the Governor states that a government worker relocating a political sign would violate state laws prohibiting public monies from being used to influence election outcomes. Additionally, it would prevent a city, town or county from removing a sign that poses a clear traffic risk until proper notification was given.