

# **Veterans & Military Affairs Committee**

**Senator Jack Harper, Chairman**

Appointed to serve as the Chairman of Finance February 8, 2010

**Senator Al Melvin, Chairman**

Appointed February 8, 2010



**Bill Boyd, Research Analyst**  
**Megan Selvey, Intern**

# VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

## LEGISLATION ENACTED

### military affairs commission (S.B. 1350) – Chapter 208

Expands the membership and duties of the Military Affairs Commission and transfers the administration of the Military Installation Fund to the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs.

### veterans' services; military installation fund (NOW: charitable organizations; instant ticket games) (H.B. 2195) – Chapter 126

Requires the Arizona State Lottery Commission to establish special instant ticket games designated for use by charitable organizations. Allocates 15 percent of the revenues derived from the sale of the games to the State Lottery Fund and 20 percent of the price of each special instant game ticket to a licensed sales agent who is designated as a charitable organization.

### military family relief fund (H.B. 2198) – Chapter 254

Expands eligible assistance from the Military Family Relief Fund and allows the Director of the Department of Veterans' Services to hire an employee to support the Military Family Relief Advisory Committee. Temporarily allows financial assistance to be awarded to applying families of service members deployed to a combat zone after September 11, 2001.

### veterans; disability benefits (HB 2348) – Chapter 70

Stipulates that a veteran's service-connected federal disability benefits, excluding the benefit portion that is subject to child and spousal support, are exempt from the claims of creditors, attachment, levy, or seizure under any legal or equitable process, and are exempt from being awarded to any other person. Prohibits a court, in making a disposition of property, from considering any veteran's federal service-connected disability benefits or awarding service-connected disability benefits to a veteran's spouse as spousal maintenance.

### purple heart recipients; tuition waiver (H.B. 2350) – Chapter 135

Requires the Arizona Board of Regents and community college districts to provide a qualified Purple Heart recipient (recipient) with a tuition waiver scholarship. To be eligible, a recipient must have been a resident of, or stationed in, Arizona when wounded and have a disability rating of 50 percent or more.

### burial duties; service member remains (H.B. 2400) – Chapter 137

Specifies that the duty to bury or provide other funeral arrangements for a decedent who died while serving in the United States armed forces is delegated to the person authorized pursuant to the service members' Record of Emergency Data Form.

## **VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Cont'd.)**

### employment; absence for military duties (H.B. 2539) – Chapter 73

Prohibits an employer from refusing to permit a leave of absence to a member of the United States Armed Forces Reserves (Reserves member) to serve in active duty. Prohibits the loss of a Reserves member's seniority or precedence while on active duty and requires the reservist's employment status be reinstated upon completion of active duty. Entitles a Reserves member to a leave of absence of his or her duties without the loss of time or efficiency rating on all days engaged in field training. Entitles a Reserves member to his or her pay during the leave of absence of active duty, not to exceed 30 days in a two year period. Changes the employer's penalty for punishing the lawful absence of an employee who is a member of the Arizona National Guard or Reserves from a class 3 misdemeanor to a class 1 misdemeanor.

### military duty; unemployment insurance (H.B. 2541) – Chapter 197

SEE COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

### POW/MIA flag; display (H.B. 2684) – Chapter 217

Requires the display of the POW/MIA flag on the State Capitol building, county superior courthouses, city or town halls of each incorporated city or town and the main administrative building of each county in a manner prescribed by federal law on any day when the United States flag is displayed. The bill also specifies the manner of display for the Arizona State flag.

**VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Cont'd.)**