



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2428

veteran benefits; reservists

Sponsor: Representative Gowan

DP Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety

W/D Committee on Appropriations

DP Caucus and COW

X As Transmitted to the Governor

OVERVIEW

HB 2428 allows a veteran to obtain an identification card and driver license with a veteran designation from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and modifies statutes relating to military leave of absence, eligibility for the Military Family Relief Fund (Fund), and the definition of veteran.

HISTORY

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 28-3166 provides a driver license is required to contain the following: a distinguishing number; the license class; any endorsements; the licensee's full name, date of birth, and residential address; a brief description of the licensee; a photo of the licensee; and either a facsimile of the licensee's signature or a space on which the licensee is required to write their signature.

Auxiliary branches of the United States Military, such as the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, consist of volunteer civilians affiliated with a certain branch of the military. The CAP was established as the auxiliary of the United States Air Force in 1948 with three primary missions: emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs. The Coast Guard Auxiliary was established by Congress in 1939. Its overarching mission is to contribute to the safety and security of the citizens, ports, and waterways of the United States.

A.R.S. § 41-608.04 establishes the Fund and Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee determines the appropriate uses of monies in the Fund, which consists of private donations, grants, bequests, and any other monies received. Monies in the Fund are used to provide financial assistance to families of service members in the military. The service member of an applying family must have been deceased, wounded, injured, or become seriously ill after September 11, 2001; been deployed from a military base in Arizona or entered active U.S. military service from Arizona after September 11, 2001; claimed Arizona as the service member's home of record or been a member of the Arizona National Guard at the time of deployment. If discharged from military service, the service member must have been discharged under honorable conditions. Laws 2011, chapter 301 extended the Fund for five years.

PROVISIONS

- Requires ADOT to issue identification cards and driver licenses with a veteran designation upon the request of an applicant who has submitted satisfactory proof of their veteran status.
- Excludes government employees serving in the auxiliary forces of the United States Military from being granted a leave of absence without loss of time or pay for certain federal training.

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- Modifies eligibility criteria for families who apply for the Fund.
- Clarifies the definition of *veteran*.
- Makes technical and conforming changes.