



County of El Dorado
Meeting Agenda
Veteran Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, District I – Alternate John Poimiroo
Chris Cockrell, District II – Alternate Roger Reynolds
Kurt Raffetto, District III – Alternate Josh Castro
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson
Daniel Browne, Jr., District V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
Richard Todd, Acting Secretary Ex-Officio

Lauren Odell, Acting Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission

Department of Veteran Affairs
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B
Placerville CA 95667
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Thursday, October 14, 2021 @ 1200 hours
Lake Tahoe Community College
University Center Room U112
1 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Veteran Affairs Commission Agendas and Minutes are available for viewing in the Veteran Memorial Building lobby at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667 and online
<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/Commission-Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm

II. ROLL CALL

District	Present	Absent
I	Smith, Poimiroo	
II	Cockrell, Reynolds	
III		Raffetto, Castro
IV	Thompson	Welch
V	Browne, Houseworth	

III. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

Lake Tahoe Community College Staff – Rosie Juarez, Marni Pershnick, Michelle Batista, Emily Shaw, CJ Keith; Jesse Garner (Ret. Army); Stan Pierce (Ret. Army), Sgt. At Arms Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance; Marlene Pierce, Secretary Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance; Paula Peterson, Tahoe Now; HHS Staff – Richard Todd, Ranell Brown, Lauren Odell

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Roger Reynolds; Second by Todd Smith; Motion passes 4-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes from September 2021 made by Dan Browne; Second by Roger Reynolds; Motion passes 4-0.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

No action items

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

VII. GUEST SPEAKER - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT- Michelle Batista, VP of Student Services, Lake Tahoe Community College

Michelle Batista provided an introduction as the new Vice President of Student Services at Lake Tahoe Community College. She also introduced CJ Keith, Veterans Center Liason. The new team in place at LTCC will establish a presence on the campus in support of Veteran Services. The Commission was invited to tour the location for the new Veterans Center on campus.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

None

IX. EX-OFFICIO REPORT – RECEIVE AND FILE (Todd)

Richard Todd presented the Ex-Officio report. Report attached to these minutes.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Raffetto/Houseworth)**
Report presented by Phil Houseworth. The TOT Committee met to review grants. Perpetual grants were discussed and will be presented to the Commission as New Business later in the meeting. Mini-grant applications were reviewed and assigned to Committee members to follow up on. TOT is working on updating reporting requirements for grant recipients.
- **RULES (Poimiroo/Houseworth) No Report**
 - **SPECIAL COMMITTEE – HOUSING (Welch/Castro)**
Report presented by John Poimiroo. Commission members did a site visit in Pollock Pines with a developer that would like to have housing for Veterans.
- **LEGISLATIVE (Smith/Raffetto) No Report**
- **TRANSPORTATION (Browne/Thompson)**
Report presented by Dan Browne. No demonstrated needs for transportation in SLT of late.
- **BUDGET (Houseworth/Reynolds) No Report**
- **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Cockrell/Browne)**
Report presented by Chris Cockrell. Veteran Owned business designation still in progress; Union Mine HS needs an ROTC advisor.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA (Reynolds/Poimiroo)**
Social media statistics presented by Roger Reynolds.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

- **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds)**
- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER (Zelinsky)**
Report sent prior to meeting. Attached to minutes.
- **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE (Poimiroo)**
Report presented; Veterans Alliance plans to hold the Veterans Day Ceremony in person at the Veterans Monument unless told otherwise by the County Health Officer.
- **EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES (Zelinsky)**
- **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS**

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Vietnam Veterans Bridge Proposal (Raffetto/Castro)
Postponed until November meeting

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Perpetual Grant (TOT) (Raffetto/Houseworth)

Phil Houseworth presented the following table to the Commission with the recommendation from the TOT Committee to fund the included Perpetual Grants. Todd Smith made the motion to approve the grants as indicated in the table. Second by Chris Cockrell. Motion passed 3-0 (District V recused themselves from vote).

Organization Name	Requested 2020 Grant	Approved 2020 Amount	Suggested 2021 Grant Amount	TOT Approved	Approved 2021 Amount
Folsom Lake College	\$ 35,000.00	N/A	\$17,500.00		
Folsom Lake College	\$ 5,000.00	N/A	\$2,500.00		
Lake Tahoe Community College	\$ 18,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$10,000		
Snowline Hospice	\$ 25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00		
El Dorado County Veterans Alliance (formerly Friends of Veterans Monument)	\$ 10,000.00	N/A	\$10,000.00		
Sierra Chaplaincy	\$ 3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00		
MFSG/EDVR	\$ 8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00		
Only Kindness	\$ 12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00		
El Dorado Food Bank			\$5,000.00		
Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance			\$3,000.00		
EDCVSO General Trainee			\$21,000.00		
Total	\$ 116,000.00	\$55,000	\$119,000.00		
Total Funds Available					\$170,000.00

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER (Additional Commission and HHSa Staff Comments)

A. Community Survey RE: Veterans Monument (P. Moley/J. Poimiroo)

HHSa and the Commission are working together to create a community survey to gather public feedback on the criteria for placement on the Veterans Monument.

B. Dan Browne requested information on progress made regarding the County offices in South Lake Tahoe. Richard Todd will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is limited to three minutes per person.

M. Pierce

XV. NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 1200 Hours

ADJOURNMENT 1:19pm

Veterans Services – October 2021 Report

Richard Todd, Acting Veterans Service Officer

- The Veteran Service Officer recruitment has been posted and is listed as a continuous recruitment until it is filled. I will keep the VAC informed as this process moves forward. The VAC participated in the first interview last week and will be participating in the next scheduled interviews.
- The new Veterans Service Representative, Taylor Gautschi started on October 11th. Taylor is well versed in the operations of the Veterans Service Office as she was the former Fiscal Assistant for the office.
- **2021 Women Veterans Reception:** This is a virtual reception in honor of women veterans who significantly contributes to improving and positively impacting the women veteran community. [Click here](#) for more information!
- **Elder Options:**

Elder Options Expands To Include More Veterans' Services

Recognizing the number of retired military personnel who live in El Dorado County and the surrounding areas, Elder Options' Chief Operating Officer Liz Heape-Caldwell announced that Elder Options has signed a Provider Contract with the Veterans' Administration and TriWest Healthcare Alliance as a Community Care Network provider.

With this contract in place, Elder Options is now accepting referrals from local physicians registered with the Tri-West Community Care Network as well as VA health facilities within their service area to provide non-medical home care recommended by the veteran's physician. Services to be provided can be to help with daily activities such as bathing, grooming, meal preparation, and household tasks to "enable independence and safety" for the veteran.

According to the TriWest Healthcare Alliance/Community Care Network Provider Contract, "Under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Care Network and TriWest Health Alliance, Elder Options is an approved provider for Homemaker, Home Health Aide or In-Home Respite Care and is included in the CCN Healthcare Benefit."

The number of hours as well as tasks recommended need to be ordered by the veteran's physician. Once the referral is received, Elder Options' scheduling department will reach out to the veteran and family to see what their needs are and how best to meet them.

Caldwell announced, "We've just received a second piece of good news. Elder Options has been awarded funds from a submitted grant from the El Dorado

Community Foundation for the VA-Homemaker program.” This program is funded on behalf of the County of El Dorado Veterans Affairs Commission through the Foundation & the Elders Community Fund to assist veterans and their spouses in remaining independent at home. A popular program from its inception in 2020, the VA-Homemaker program allows veterans or disabled spouses a chance to have assistance for 3 hours once a week for one month. This is a good opportunity for eligible families to try out having some needed help in the home. Caldwell anticipates this program will begin accepting referrals when funding is received in October.

- **Claims:** Claims processed for June (104), July (94), August (89), and September (60). The dominate number of claims processed for each of the months reported was in the “Application for Disability Compensation” category.
- **Code Red:** Are you ready? The El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office- Office of Emergency Services Alert Notification System provides a number of ways in which the county may contact the community in the event of an emergency such as: evacuations due to wildfires or hazardous material spills, or urgent law enforcement operations.

The El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services partnered with CodeRED emergency notification service to alert residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email, and social media when there is a threat to the health or safety of residents. [Click here to sign up!](#)

- **Legislative Update:** Provided by the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (attached)

RESOURCES

- **Veterans Crisis Line** - If you are having thoughts of suicide, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255), then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.
- **Vet Centers** - Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. **70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans.** Call [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387) or find one [near you](#).
- **CALVET**
- [VA Mental Health Services Guide](#) - This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.
- EDC Veteran Services Webpage update is now complete. Please go to: [Veteran Affairs - El Dorado County \(edcgov.us\)](#).

Legislative Update Report-California State Commanders Veterans Council

By Reeb Government Relations, LLC

The 2021 legislative year is now over. The last day for the Governor to take action on bills sent to him by the Legislature was October 10. Listed below are bills that the CSCVC took positions on that survived the legislative process up to September 10. Some bills from 2021 were made in to 2-Year bills, which allows them to continue next year, and those bills are also listed below.

The positions listed below are either Chaptered (signed in to law), vetoed (dead), or are 2-year bills (heard next year).

To access the Legislature's bill information website which contains the text, amendments, analyses, votes, and status of all bills back to 1999, please go to: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

This report was prepared by Reeb Government Relations, LLC. For more information, please contact:

JR Wilson, Chair, Legislative Committee: geraldwilson1971@gmail.com

Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate: sethreeb@comcast.net

The Legislature will reconvene for the 2022 legislative year (which is the second year of the 2021-22 legislative session) on January 3, 2022.

[AB 107](#)

(Salas D) Licensure: veterans and military spouses.

Status: 10/8/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 693, Statutes of 2021.

Location: 10/8/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Current law requires a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant submits an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. This bill, on and after January 1, 2023, would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to include licenses issued by any board within the department, except as provided. The bill would require an applicant for a temporary license to provide to the board documentation that the applicant has passed a California law and ethics examination if otherwise required by the board for the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks licensure.

Position
Support

[AB 225](#)

(Gray D) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.

Status: 7/14/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was B., P. & E.D. on 6/9/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 7/14/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires specified boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant holds a current, active, and unrestricted

license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board. This bill would expand the eligibility for a temporary license to an applicant who meets the specified criteria and who supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States within 60 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States within 120 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions and a resident of California prior to entering into military service, or an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States with official orders for separation within 90 days under other than dishonorable conditions.

Position
Support

[AB 291](#)

(Sevarto R) Income taxation: exclusion: military survivor benefits.

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was REV. & TAX on 1/28/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain, among other things, specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements. This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, would provide an exclusion from gross income for all survivor benefits or payments received on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, under the federal Survivor Benefit Plan. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to submit, on or before December 1, 2025, a report to the Legislature on the income brackets of taxpayers who claimed this exclusion, and would provide findings and declarations relating to the goals, purposes, and objectives of this exclusion.

Position
Support

[AB 305](#)

(Maienschein D) Veteran services: notice.

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/1/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires every state agency that requests on any written form or written publication, or through its internet website, whether a person is a veteran, to request that information in a specified manner. This bill would require specified governmental agencies to include, at their next scheduled update, additional questions on their intake and application forms, except as provided, to determine whether a person is affiliated with the Armed Forces of the United States. The bill would require those agencies, through the intake or application form, to request permission from that person to transmit their contact information to the Department of Veterans Affairs so that the person may be notified of potential eligibility to receive state and federal veterans benefits.

Position
Support

[AB 411](#)

(Irwin D) Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2022.

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would enact the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2022 to authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$600,000,000 to provide additional funding for the VHHPA. The bill would provide for the handling and disposition of the funds in the same manner as the 2014 bond act.

Position
Support

[AB 459](#)

(Mathis R) Vehicles: registration fees: exceptions.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on

5/19/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law defines a disabled veteran to include a person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the Armed Forces of the United States, has a disability that has been rated at 100% by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder that substantially impairs or interferes with mobility. Current law exempts a disabled veteran from the payment of vehicle registration fees, as specified. This bill would extend a prorated discount on vehicle registration fees, as specified, to a partially disabled veteran, as defined.

Position
Support

[AB 576](#)

([Maienschein D](#)) Community colleges: apportionments: waiver of open course provisions: military personnel.

Status: 10/6/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 562, Statutes of 2021.

Location: 10/6/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Current law waives open course provisions in statute or regulations of the board of governors for any governing board of a community college district for classes the district provides to inmates of certain facilities, and authorizes the board of governors to include the units of full-time equivalent students generated in those classes for purposes of state apportionments. This bill would waive open course provisions in statute or regulations of the board of governors for any governing board of a community college district for community college courses the district provides to military personnel, their dependents, and authorized civilian employees on a military base, and would authorize the board of governors to include the units of full-time equivalent students generated in those community college courses for purposes of state apportionments.

Position
Support

[AB 837](#)

([Rubio, Blanca D](#)) Collection of tax: deployed military personnel.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/28/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires the Franchise Tax Board to administer the levy and collection of taxes pursuant to the Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law and establishes procedures for the collection of delinquent taxes. This bill would prohibit the board from imposing a levy on salary or wages payable to or received by, or place a lien on a bank account of, a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty while deployed away from the individual's permanent duty station.

Position
Support

[AB 933](#)

([Daly D](#)) Prescription drug cost sharing.

Status: 4/30/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was HEALTH on 2/25/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 4/30/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Current law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Current law limits the maximum amount an enrollee or insured may be required to pay at the point of sale for a covered prescription drug to the lesser of the applicable cost-sharing amount or the retail price. This bill would require an enrollee's or insured's defined cost sharing for each prescription drug to be calculated at the point of sale based on a price that is reduced by an amount equal to 90% of all rebates received, or to be received, in connection with the dispensing or administration of the drug.

Position
Support

[AB 1026](#)

(Smith R) Business licenses: veterans.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would require the Department of Consumer Affairs and any board within the department to grant a 50% fee reduction for an initial license to an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence, as defined, the applicant has served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the California National Guard and was honorably discharged. This bill would authorize a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

Position
Support

[AB 1151](#)

(Smith R) Driver's licenses: veteran designation.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/21/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would direct the Department of Motor Vehicles to discontinue the fee for printing the word "VETERAN" on the face of a driver's licence or identification card by July 1, 2022, and would repeal that fee provision on January 1, 2023. The bill would also make technical and conforming changes.

Position
Support

[AB 1470](#)

(Mathis R) Ending Military Suicide Task Force.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/12/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would require the Department of Health Care Services to establish an Ending Military Suicide Task Force to systematically reduce military suicides and to develop a plan to eliminate all military suicides in the state, as specified. Commencing June 1, 2023, the bill would require the task force to submit a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of veteran suicide prevention, as specified, including, among other things, an analysis of the plans, activities, strategies, and programs undertaken pursuant to the task force's recommendations and their effects on reducing military suicides in the state.

Position
Support

[AB 1520](#)

(Levine D) Health care coverage: prostate cancer: screening.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would prohibit a health care service plan contract or a health insurance policy issued, amended, renewed, or delivered on or after January 1, 2022, from applying a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance to coverage for specified screening services for prostate cancer for an enrollee or insured who is 55 years of age or older or is 40 years of age or older and is high risk, as determined by their health care provider.

Position
Support

[ACR 5](#)

(Mathis R) AMVETS 75th Anniversary.

Status: 7/15/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 93, Statutes of 2021

Location: 7/15/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: This measure would commend AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans.

Position
Support

[ACR 12](#)

(Sevarto R) Purple Heart Day.

Status: 8/31/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 105, Statutes of 2021

Location: 8/31/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Would declare August 7, 2021, as Purple Heart Day in California.

Position
Support

[ACR 13](#)

(Sevarto R) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Status: 9/7/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 133, Statutes of 2021

Location: 9/7/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Would commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Position
Support

[ACR 21](#)

(Dahle, Megan R) Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Status: 8/31/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 107, Statutes of 2021

Location: 8/31/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Would designate the South Yuba River Bridge over State Highway Route 49 in the County of Nevada as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Position
Support

[AJR 12](#)

(Stone D) Veterans' educational benefits.

Status: 8/26/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 118, Statutes of 2021

Location: 8/26/2021-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Would urge the United States Congress to revise the United States Code to remove the requirement that, to be eligible for GI benefits, a law school be accredited by a specialized accreditor and the overly broad restriction that graduates must be eligible to sit for a bar examination in any state.

Position
Support

[SB 348](#)

(Grove R) Veterans' homes: closure.

Status: 8/27/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/19/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 8/27/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires the master plan for the overall operation of the veterans' homes system be revised by the department every 5 years. Under current law, the master plan is required to discuss, among other things, the location of future facilities at or within the vicinity of United States Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, the closure of facilities, and the expansion of existing facilities or conversion of existing facilities to provide different levels of service. This bill would, in the event the department recommends or proposes to close a veterans' home, require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convene a taskforce that includes representatives from the department, elected officials from the community where the home is located, residents of the home, staff employed at the home, and local veterans groups.

Position
Support

[SB 498](#)

(Umberg D) Funds for the provision of legal services to indigent persons: disabled veterans.

Status: 10/8/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 688, Statutes of 2021.

Location: 10/8/2021-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Current law requires an attorney or law firm receiving or disbursing trust funds to establish and maintain an Interest On Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) account in which the attorney or law firm is required to deposit or invest all specified client deposits or funds. Current law directs IOLTA account interest and dividends to be paid to the State Bar of California to be distributed for the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons in a prescribed order, including, after payment of administrative costs, 85% of remaining funds to qualified legal services projects. Current law defines terms for these purposes, including the definition of "indigent person." This bill would expand the definition of "indigent person" by increasing one measure of income eligibility from 125% to 200% of a specified poverty threshold. The bill would further require, for the purpose of that definition, that the income of a person who is disabled be determined after deducting disability compensation from the United States Veterans Administration paid to a veteran with a service-related disability.

Position
Support

[SB 658](#)

(Grove R) Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans.

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/10/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current property tax law, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, provides a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and veteran's spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service. Current law exempts that part of the full value of the residence that does not exceed \$100,000, or \$150,000 if the household income of the claimant does not exceed \$40,000, as adjusted for inflation, as specified. This bill, for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2022, would additionally provide a partial exemption for property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran who is partially disabled, as defined, or the veteran's spouse or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, under these provisions.

Position
Support

[SB 661](#)

(Newman D) Veterans' farm and home loan program.

Status: 10/5/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 549, Statutes of 2021.

Location: 10/5/2021-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Current law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is headed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Current law requires the secretary, as head of the department and subject to the policies adopted by the California Veterans Board, to perform all duties, exercise all powers and jurisdiction, assume and discharge all responsibilities, and carry out and effect all provisions vested by law in the department. Current law defines "veteran" for the purposes of the various programs granting benefits to veterans. This bill would authorize the secretary to designate a deputy, employee, or other official in the department to act for them and to represent them at meetings. The bill would authorize the secretary to delegate powers and duties, as specified.

Position
Support

[SB 665](#)

(Umberg D) Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference.

Status: 10/6/2021-Vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 10/6/2021-S. VETOED

Summary: Would enact the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans' preference employment policy, to be applied uniformly to hiring decisions, to

give a voluntary preference for hiring a veteran over another qualified applicant. The bill would require a private employer with a veterans' preference employment policy to annually report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing the number of veterans hired under the preference policy and any demographic information about those veterans that the employer obtained in response to the department's reporting requirements. Under the bill, failure to submit that report would render any preference granted by the employer ineligible for the protections provided by this bill.

Position
Support

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 665 without my signature.

This bill allows private employers to create a temporary veterans' preference for hiring and deems these policies as not violating anti-discrimination laws, until January 1, 2028.

Honoring veterans and assisting them in securing employment are vitally important goals of my Administration. However, I am concerned that the veterans' preference policies that would be permitted by this legislation could negatively impact employment opportunities for women and other protected groups underrepresented among veterans, such as people with disabilities.

There are ways to make the preference workable and I look forward to working with the author to advance such a policy.

Sincerely,
Gavin Newsom

[SB 667](#)

(Roth D) Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: filing of claims.

Status: 9/30/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 430, Statutes of 2021.

Location: 9/30/2021-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Current property tax law, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, provides a disabled veterans' property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and veteran's spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service. Current property tax law requires any person claiming the disabled veterans' property tax exemption to file a claim, which is required to be filed under penalty of perjury, with the assessor giving any information required by the State Board of Equalization, as provided. This bill would authorize (1) the executor, administrator, or personal legal representative of the claimant's estate or (2) the trustee of the deceased claimant's trust assets to file a claim with the assessor in the manner described above.

Position
Support

[SB 763](#)

(Min D) Sentencing: members of military: trauma.

Status: 5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/3/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 5/25/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires a court, if it concludes that a defendant convicted of a felony offense is or was a member of the United States military who may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of the defendant's military service, to consider that circumstance as a factor in mitigation when imposing a sentence. Current law allows a defendant who is currently serving a felony sentence and meets these criteria to petition for resentencing if those criteria were not considered at the time of sentencing and the person was sentenced prior to January 1, 2015. This bill would allow a defendant meeting these criteria to petition for recall of sentence and resentencing without regard to whether the defendant was sentenced prior to January 1, 2015.

Position
Support

SR 13

(Grove R) Relative to Women’s Military History Week.

Status: 3/15/2021-Read. Adopted. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.)

Location: 3/15/2021-S. ADOPTED

Summary: This measure would resolve that the Senate hereby recognizes “Women Warriors” by proclaiming the week of March 14 to March 20, 2021, inclusive, as Women’s Military History Week in California. The Senate encourages Californians to recognize the hard-fought contributions of women to our military and our freedom, the courageous sacrifices that women have made while serving our country, and the historic lifting of the ban on women in combat on January 24, 2013.

Position
Support

American Legion Service Officer Report – September 19, 2021

What is Truth?

I came into the Executive meeting pretty stoked.

I had just two hours ago received a phone call from Jock.

Blackhawk down. Somalia. Seen his full blown PTS(D) put him into convulsions when a helicopter flew low over him from behind in the Safeway parking lot in South Lake Tahoe. And again, when a police siren went off behind him, in the South Lake Tahoe jail parking lot.

Been with him from homelessness, jail, Vet Court, recovery.

One of the finest, noblest, straightest arrows, I had ever met.

In that phone call lots of exciting news. On a City Council. Sitting the next day for the First Year Law Student Exam (baby or mini bar). Multiple Purple Hearts. A couple dozen wounds. Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

After the meeting, I decided to see more about him on the Web.

Not on the City Council. Not in the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Called JAG. Did he tell you the same things? Yes.

Looked up the date for the Baby Bar. Next month, not the next day.

Was he now manic and delirious?

Called Tim Whalen of the Citrus Heights Vet Center, who made contact with him.

Hopefully, Jock will go, and accept services.

So, what is true?

I know the VA verified the connection between the crime, and his military service. I know he graduated from Vet Court.

And I will always hold onto these words he said to me:

“You saved my life.”

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119

American Legion Service Officer Report
Received 10/11/2021

Trying to manage transportation has been very stressful.

Just over the last week:

“Louis needs a ride to Travis, because Mather cannot handle the surgery. Time not yet known.”

Talked to neighbor, another Veteran, and somehow or other the problem got solved.

We think.

“Joe needs a ride to Mather. Tomorrow.”

Joe did not return my call. Left a desperate message with house council, meeting that night. Victor Mansfield, Marine Corps League Commandant stepped up.

Only Joe did not return his calls.

Still do not know what happened.

“Xmas needs a ride to Mather for surgery. Expect three hour wait time. Day after tomorrow.”

Called. Good news. Got rescheduled to following week. Arranged a ride with a Veteran who has her own ride business. Have a small slush fund at the Episcopal church. Good to go. Only...

Mather rescheduled. Ride can no longer do it. Problem unsolved.

“Good needs a ride next week.”

Perfectly reasonable request. Only, the volunteers are getting burned out. Not getting any affirmative. I will be gone soon.

Stress.

On another note:

Good referral from Todd Smith.

Helped Veteran figure out for himself, he has VA health care!

Encouraged him to connect with Rene Evans of Only Kindness for housing ideas. Not our usual homeless Veteran, but he would like a bigger place for his family. See if he might qualify for VA funded housing programs like HUD-VASH or SSVF.

Encouraged him to talk to county VSO about increasing service connected rating.

Connected him to email list service for both CalVet and VA. Daily useful information, including housing programs like CalVet loans.

Referred him to Tim Whalen, Citrus Heights Vet Center, to see if he qualifies. Either way, he now knows he qualifies at Mather.

Update on state Veteran homes:

Expect 18 month wait for Fresno for independent living. Preferred admission for homeless, Purple Heart, and P.O.W. Five or more years wait for skilled nursing or Memory Care.

Apply too early, not too late.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119
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