



CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL

STATUS OF 2019 LEGISLATION STILL IN MOTION (7-2-19)

HOUSE OF ORIGIN DEADLINE

The midway point of the 2019 legislative year was May 31st, which was the deadline for Assembly or Senate bills to be passed out of their house of origin. On June 3, Assembly bills moved over to the Senate and vice versa. To date, some bills have died because they did not receive the votes to advance through the committee process, did not meet with legislative deadlines for action, or died in the Appropriations Committees because of cost (Suspense file). Some legislation is parked in a committee where it will be taken up again in 2020 which is the second year of the 2019-20 Legislative Session (“2-year bill”). The legislation listed below is currently still alive.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

July 12 —Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills. Summer Recess begins upon adjournment.

Aug. 12 —Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess

Sep. 13 —Last day for any bill to be passed

Oct. 13 —Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 13.

SB 663 (JONES)

This year, one of the key bills that affects most veterans in the community is SB 663 which seeks to secure a tax exemption for veterans halls. SB 663 is being carried Senator Brian Jones (R-Santee) and has passed unanimously through the process so far.

ACCESSING LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION:

To access the Legislature’s website which has the language, status, votes, and analyses of all legislation from 1999 to the present, go to:

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

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STATUS OF 2019 LEGISLATION STILL IN MOTION (7-2-19)

[AB 160](#)

(Voepel R) Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference.

Status: 5/29/2019-Referred to Coms. on JUD. and V.A.

Location: 5/29/2019-S. JUD.

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 or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee. The bill would provide that the granting of a veterans' preference pursuant to the bill, in and of itself, shall be deemed not to violate any local or state equal employment opportunity law or regulation, including, but not limited to, the antidiscrimination provisions of California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

Position
Support

[AB 169](#)

(Lackey R) Guide, signal, and service dogs: injury or death.

Status: 6/24/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

Location: 6/24/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Under current law, it is an infraction or a misdemeanor for a person to permit a dog that is owned, harbored, or controlled by the person to cause injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined, while the guide, signal, or service dog is in discharge of its duties. Current law makes a person who intentionally causes injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, while the dog is in discharge of its duties, guilty of a misdemeanor. This bill would delete, from both crimes, the requirement that the guide, signal, or service dog be in discharge of its duties when the injury or death occurs and would make these crimes applicable to the injury or death of dogs that are enrolled in a training school or program for guide, signal, or service dogs, as specified.

Position
Support

[AB 230](#)

(Brough R) Disabled veteran business enterprises.

Status: 6/25/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on V.A. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/25/2019-S. V. A.

Summary: Current law states the intent of the Legislature that every state procurement authority meet or exceed a DVBE participation goal of a minimum of 3% of total contract value. Current law requires a department awarding a contract to, upon completion of that contract, require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a DVBE to certify specified information to the awarding department, including, among other things, the amount each DVBE received from the prime contractor. This bill would require that information to include proof of payment for work done by the DVBE and the amount and percentage of work the prime contractor committed to provide to one or more DVBEs under the contract.

Position
Support

[AB 232](#)

(Cervantes D) Veteran suicides: report and recommendations.

Status: 6/19/2019-Re-referred to Coms. on HEALTH and V.A.

Location: 6/19/2019-S. HEALTH

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to implement an electronic death registration system and to access data within the system to compile a report on veteran suicide in California that includes information on the veterans' ages, sexes, races or ethnicities, and methods of suicide. Current law requires the department to provide that report annually to the Legislature and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would additionally require the report described above to include information on the veterans' locations of residency and death, length and locations of service, branches of service, and occupations and industries or businesses.

Position
Support

[AB 240](#)

(Irwin D) Veterans' homes: lease of property.

Status: 6/24/2019-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Location: 6/11/2019-S. G.O.

Summary: Current law sets forth the duties of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the administration and regulation of veterans' homes. Current law authorizes the Director of General Services to lease or let any real property

held by the department for a home, as specified, to any entity or person upon terms and conditions determined to be in the best interests of the home. This bill would prohibit a lease or let from exceeding 5 years, unless the lessee is a local government or a nonprofit organization that provides services exclusively for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families, or the contract for the lease was executed before January 1, 2019.

Position
Support

[AB 498](#) **(Weber D) Business licensing: fees: exemptions: veterans.**

Status: 6/27/2019-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/27/2019-S. THIRD READING

Summary: Current law provides that every person who is honorably discharged or honorably relieved from the military, naval, or air service of the United States and is a resident of this state is entitled to obtain a license to distribute circulars and sell any goods, except alcohol, without payment of any business license fees. This bill would also exempt a veteran who is honorably discharged or honorably relieved from the Armed Forces of the United States and is a resident of this state from paying any local business license fees for a business that sells or provides services if the veteran is the sole proprietor of the business.

Position
Support

[AB 550](#) **(Flora R) Veterans: Medical Foster Home Pilot Program.**

Status: 6/26/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/26/2019-S. APPR.

Summary: Would establish the Medical Foster Home Pilot Program until January 1, 2023, under which a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) facility may establish a medical foster home that is not subject to licensure or regulation as a residential care facility for the elderly, a community care facility, or a residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, pursuant to specified federal requirements.

Position
Support

[AB 581](#) **(Levine D) Sentencing: members of military: trauma.**

Status: 6/26/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/26/2019-S. APPR.

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

[AB 634](#) **(Salas D) Traffic control devices: roundabouts: memorial and dedication signs.**

Status: 7/1/2019-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.).

Location: 7/1/2019-A. DESK

Summary: Current law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of all state highways and associated property. This bill would require that roundabouts be added as a type of highway facility that may be used for memorial or dedication signing.

Position
Support

[AB 694](#) **(Irwin D) Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2019.**

Status: 6/26/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/26/2019-S. GOV. & F.

Summary: Would enact the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2019 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 1257](#)

(Salas D) Sales and use taxes: exemption: vehicle modifications: physically handicapped persons: veterans.

Status: 6/26/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/26/2019-S. APPR.

Summary: Current law exempts from sales and use taxes, in the case of a sale of a modified vehicle for physically handicapped persons to a disabled person who is eligible to be issued a distinguishing license plate or placard for parking purposes, the gross receipts attributable to that portion of the vehicle that has been so modified. Current regulations implementing those provisions provide that physically handicapped persons include disabled persons, as specified, which existing law defines as, among others, persons with a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility. Current federal law provides various benefits to disabled veterans, including assistance with the purchase of an automobile and adaptive equipment. This bill, on and after July 1, 2020, and before July 1, 2030, would specify that, for purposes of the exemptions described above, physically handicapped persons include eligible persons with a severe burn injury, as those terms are defined in existing federal law.

Position
Support

[AB 1365](#)

(Committee on Veterans Affairs) Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

Status: 6/25/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on V.A. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/25/2019-S. V. A.

Summary: Current law requires an awarding department, upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a DVBE goal was made, to require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a DVBE to certify to the awarding department specified information relating to amounts paid under the contract. This bill would require an awarding department to directly inform a DVBE of its inclusion in an awarded contract when the DVBE has been identified as a subcontractor within the awarded contract. The bill would require an awarding department to maintain all records of the information provided by the prime contractor pursuant to these provisions and to retain the records for a minimum of 6 years after collection.

Position
Support

[AB 1588](#)

(Gloria D) Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs.

Status: 6/25/2019-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/25/2019-S. V. A.

Summary: Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to issue a water treatment operator certificate and water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by another state, the United States, prescribed territories or tribal governments, or a unit of any of these. Current law requires the board to classify types of wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of determining the levels of competence necessary to operate them. This bill would require the board to evaluate opportunities to issue a water treatment operator certificate or water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity, or a wastewater certificate by examination waiver, to persons who performed duties comparable to those duties while serving in the United States military, as specified.

Position
Support

[ACR 37](#)

(Garcia, Eduardo D) Marine Corporal Erik H. Silva Memorial Bridge.

Status: 6/25/2019-From committee: Be adopted, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/25/2019-S. APPR.

Summary: This measure would designate the Alamo River Bridge on the Evan Hewes Highway (State Route 115) at the entry to the City of Holtville, California, as the Marine Corporal Erik H. Silva 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

[SB 222](#)

(Hill D) Discrimination: veteran or military status.

Status: 6/27/2019-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 5/16/2019-A. JUD.

Summary: Would state findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the importance of housing for veterans and its priority, and declare that housing discrimination on the basis of veteran or military status is against public policy.

Position
Support

[SB 245](#)

(Chang R) Public animal shelters: adoptions: veterans.

Status: 6/25/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 19. Noes 0.) (June 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/25/2019-A. APPR.

Summary: Would prohibit a public animal shelter from charging an adoption fee for a dog or cat if the person adopting the dog or cat presents to the public animal shelter a current and valid driver's license or identification card with the word "VETERAN" printed on its face pursuant to the above-described provision. The bill also would authorize a public animal shelter to limit the number of dogs and cats adopted from that public animal shelter by an eligible veteran to one dog and cat each 6-month period.

Position
Support

[SB 289](#)

(Archuleta D) Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.

Status: 7/1/2019-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/25/2019-A. V. A.

Summary: Current federal law provides for various home- and community-based services (HCBS), as part of a waiver or a state plan amendment under the Medicaid program, to promote coverage and services that enable an individual who would otherwise be institutionalized to live at home or in the community. This bill would require the retention of eligibility for, reenrollment in, or restoration of existing status on the waiting list of, specified HCBS waiver programs for an individual who is a dependent child or spouse of an active duty military service member and who transfers to another state with the military service member on official military orders, if the individual subsequently returns to and establishes residence in this state, continues to be otherwise eligible for the waiver program, and submits a certain request, as applicable.

Position
Support

[SB 312](#)

(Leyva D) Veterans: service dog assistance.

Status: 6/18/2019-June 18 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

Location: 6/6/2019-A. V. A.

Summary: Would require the Department of Veterans Affairs, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance for the cost of service dogs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill would award grants to certified veteran service dog providers, as defined, that provide services including, among other things, the purchase of the dog, training of the dog, and equipment for the dog. The bill would additionally require the Department of Veterans Affairs to publicize the program, as specified. The bill would require the department to, on and after December 1, 2021, accept and either approve or reject applications to certify veteran service dog providers.

Position
Support

[SB 364](#)

(Stone R) Property taxation: senior and disabled veterans.

Status: 6/18/2019-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.

Location: 6/6/2019-A. REV. & TAX

Summary: The California Constitution generally limits ad valorem taxes on real property to 1% of the full cash value, as defined, of that property, and provides that the full cash value base may be adjusted each year by the inflationary rate not to exceed 2% for any given year. Current property tax law implementing this constitutional authority provides that the taxable value of real property is the lesser of its base year value compounded annually by an inflation factor not to exceed 2%, as provided, or its full cash value. Current property tax law also provides that the taxable value of a manufactured home is the lesser of its base year value compounded annually by an inflation factor not to exceed 2% or its full cash value. This bill, for any assessment year commencing on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2030, would provide that the inflation factor shall not apply to the principal place of residence, including a manufactured home, of a qualified veteran, as defined, who is 65 years of age or older on the lien date, was honorably discharged from military service, and meets specified requirements.

Position
Support

SB 500

(Morrell R) Veterans: education.

Status: 6/20/2019-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/20/2019-A. APPR.

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish an education assistance program to provide housing and tuition assistance to disabled veterans attending graduate school in the State of California if their eligibility for federal education assistance has expired. The bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the department to provide tuition assistance and a housing allowance to disabled veterans while they attend specified graduate schools in the State of California, as specified.

Position
Support

SB 562

(Morrell R) Property taxation: exemption: principal residence: veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses.

Status: 6/19/2019-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.

Location: 6/6/2019-A. REV. & TAX

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. This bill, for the 2020–21 fiscal year to the 2029–30 fiscal year, inclusive, would increase these exemption amounts to \$200,000, or \$250,000 if the household income of the claimant does not exceed \$65,000, as adjusted for inflation.

Position
Support

SB 588

(Archuleta D) Public contracts: Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

Status: 6/27/2019-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on J., E.D., & E.

Location: 6/10/2019-A. J., E.D. & E.

Summary: Would require the uniform process for state contracting under the DVBE program developed by the Director of General Services to require that a DVBE incentive is provided for all state agency contracts, even when the DVBE participation goal has been waived. The bill would additionally, until January 1, 2025, require an awarding department to give a prime contractor that fails to comply with the certification requirements, as specified, reasonable opportunity to cure the failure. The bill would, until January 1, 2025, require the awarding department to provide notice of the failure to the Department of General Services, if, after being provided with a reasonable opportunity, the prime contractor continues to fail to comply with the certification requirements.

Position
Support

SB 644

(Glazer D) Tenancy: security deposit: service members.

Status: 6/18/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on V.A. (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (June 18). Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/18/2019-A. V. A.

Summary: Current law regulates the terms and conditions of residential tenancies, and prohibits a landlord from demanding or receiving security for a rental agreement for residential property, however denominated, in an amount or value in excess of an amount equal to 2 months' rent, in the case of unfurnished residential property, and an amount equal to 3 months' rent, in the case of furnished residential property, in addition to any rent for the first month paid on or before initial occupancy. This bill, notwithstanding that provision and as specified, would prohibit a landlord from demanding or receiving security from a service member who rents residential property in which the service member will reside in an amount or value in excess of an amount equal to one months' rent, in the case of unfurnished residential property, or in excess of an amount equal to 2 months' rent, in the case of furnished residential property, as specified.

Position
Support

SB 663

(Jones R) Property taxation: exemptions: veterans' organizations.

Status: 6/25/2019-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on V.A. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (June 24). Re-referred to Com. on V.A.

Location: 6/25/2019-A. V. A.

Summary: Current property tax law establishes a veterans' organization exemption under which property is exempt from taxation if, among other things, that property is used exclusively for charitable purposes and is owned by a veterans' organization. This bill would provide that the veterans' organization exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes, and would make specific findings and declarations in that regard. The bill would also provide that the exemption shall not apply to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.

Position
Support

SB 725

(Rubio D) Veterans rental housing.

Status: 6/18/2019-June 18 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

Location: 6/6/2019-A. V. A.

Summary: Current law creates the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014, to provide for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable multifamily supportive housing, affordable transitional housing, affordable rental housing, or related facilities for veterans and their families to allow veterans to access and maintain housing stability. This bill would require the department to establish a rental housing assistance program to provide financial assistance to veterans seeking rental housing, based on the needs of the veterans.

Position
Support

SJR 7

(Glazer D) Military and veterans.

Status: 6/24/2019-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 102, Statutes of 2019

Location: 6/24/2019-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: This measure would urge the United States Congress to act favorably in regard to legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Merrill's Marauders.

Position
Support