



## MVSOA Legislative Priorities 2021-2022 As approved by Legislative Committee

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Notes	Bill Status	Does this impact Ch. 115
		AN ACT RELATIVE TO SHELTER BENEFITS FOR VETERANS	Summary: Would ensure that Chapter 115 benefits for veterans and widows are linked to the Consumer Price Index. Under current Law, this link is discretionary. The MVSOA believes that only through this link can we ensure that these often life saving benefits keep pace with inflation.	Last Session: Referred to Study	<b>YES</b> – Increases Ch. 115 benefits for veterans and their dependents
		AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES	Summary: Would elevate the Secretary of Veterans' Services to a Cabinet level position. Secretary of Veterans' Services.	Last Session: Referred to Study – Filed by Senator Rush later in Session in response to issues at Soldiers Home	<b>YES</b> – Strengthens the Ch. 115 program by ensuring that the DVS Secretary has a direct line to the Governor statutorily.
		AN ACT REALTIVE TO VETEARNES AND PUBLIC HOUSING	Summary: Would exempt benefits received under Ch. 115 from certain housing determinations.	Last Session: H 3158 Referred to Study	<b>YES</b> – By decreasing rents for Ch. 115 recipients in public housing

		AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF VETERANS AGENTS AND SERVICE OFFICERS	Summary: Would provide VSOs certain protections from involuntary separation as outlined in MGL, Chapter 30, Section 9A.	Last Session: H 3158 Referred to Study	<b>YES</b> – This bill addresses the issue of informal pressure VSOs face from municipalities by giving job protection to veterans agents we are strengthening the program.
		AN ACT RELATIVE TO TAX CREDITS FOR HOMELESS VETERAN	Section 1: Notwithstanding any other general of special law to the contrary, the Commonwealth hereby directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to require that as part of the development of the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for 2011, the Department must set-aside no less than 10% of its allocated tax credits for projects sponsored by nonprofits that will provide permanent housing for formerly homeless veterans in a service-based multifamily property and projects of no fewer than 20 units.	Last Session: H 3158 Referred to Study	<b>Not directly</b> - Would increase housing opportunities for all veterans, including those on Ch. 115
		AN ACT RELATIVE TO ANNUITIES FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES	Summary: Would extend the current Massachusetts Veterans Annuity to all surviving spouses who receive DIC	Last Session: Not filed by MVSOA. Filed by others and referred to study	<b>Yes/No</b> - However it would help many surviving spouses we do serve economically regardless of whether they receive Ch. 115.

		AN ACT RELATIVE TO TAX ABATEMENTS	Summary: This act would increase the Veteran tax abatement to by linking them to inflation	New Bill	<b>Not directly</b> - Would be available for all veterans, including those on Ch. 115
		AN ACT RELATIVE TO VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS AND AGENTS RETIREMENT BENEFITS	Summary: Would move VSOs to Group 2 of the Massachusetts Contributory Retirement System.	New Bill	<b>No</b> - It would improve the retirement benefits for both VSOs and Staff who provide these benefits.

Updated as of February 2021

**MVSOA Legislative Committee**

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