

**Veterans Bills of Interest
2015-2016 Legislative Session**

Veterans Pension Protection

SB 386 (Allen)

This bill protects veterans from pension poaching scams that have become increasingly prevalent. Scam artists offer veterans a lump sum payment in exchange for signing over their monthly pension benefits forever. The poaching scams are illegal under federal law, but several companies continue to advertise them in publications targeting veterans. This bill makes those advertisements illegal and enables prosecutors to file suit against the companies placing the advertisements.

- Signed by the Governor.

Veterans Employment & Entrepreneurship

AB 413 (Chávez)

This bill authorizes a spouse or child to enter into additional state contracts during the existing three-year designation extension following the death or permanent disability of an owner of a certified disabled veteran-owned business enterprise (DVBE). Existing law limits business activities to the completion of contracts entered into prior to death or permanent disability of the veteran owner.

- Signed by the Governor.

AJR 37 (Mathis)

This resolution requests that the Congress of the United States of America further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available, with all appropriate safeguards, to all veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses.

- Chaptered.

SB 221 (Jackson)

This bill permits state employees, who are military veterans with service-connected disabilities, to receive 96 hours of additional sick leave dedicated to health care treatment of those disabilities.

- 1) Enacts the California Wounded Warriors Transitional Leave Act.

- 2) Grants a state officer or employee, who is a military veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30% or more by USDVA, and is hired on or after January 1, 2016, an additional credit for sick leave with pay of up to 96 hours.
 - 3) Limits use of this sick leave to medical treatment of the employee's military service-connected disability.
 - 4) Requires that this sick leave be credited on the first day of employment and remain available for use for the following 12 months of employment.
 - 5) Prohibits this sick leave from being carried over after 12 months.
 - 6) Permits employing agencies to require "submission of satisfactory proof" that the sick leave is being used for treatment of a service-connected disability, pursuant to rules adopted by the Department of Human Resources (CalHR).
- Signed by the Governor.

Administrative Support for Veterans

AB 778 (Maienschein)

This bill allows county recorders to provide certified copies of military discharge documents, when those documents are requested using any of the following methods: (1) In writing (mail); (2) facsimile machine (fax); (3) digitized image (email).

- Signed by the Governor.

Veterans Housing

AB 388 (Chang)

This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to include information relating to the effectiveness of the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention (VHHP) Bond Act of 2014 in an annual report, including information relating to the effectiveness of assisted projects in helping veterans occupying any supportive housing or transitional housing development that was issued funds pursuant to the VHHP.

- Signed by the Governor.

Issues/Benefits re: Currently Serving Military (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Dependents)

AB 442 (Irwin)

This bill:

- 1) Codifies the Governor's Military Council, under the direction of the CMD.
 - 2) Provides for appointment to the Council by the Governor.
 - 3) Requires the appointments to include, but not be limited to, bipartisan representatives from both houses of the Legislature.
 - 4) Self-repeals on January 1, 2021.
- Signed by the Governor.

AB 583 (Chávez)

This bill extends existing employment and reemployment protections to members of national guards of other states, when they must leave positions of private employment within California, due to having been called onto active state service by other states' Governors or onto active federal service by the President of the United States.

- Signed by the Governor.

AB 1401 (Baker)

This bill requests the Office of the Adjutant General (OTAG) to provide assistance regarding higher education, to members of the California National Guard (CNG), State Military Reserve (SMR), and Naval Militia, who do not have a baccalaureate degree.

- 1) Requests OTAG to, among other things, make copies of the enrollment fee waiver application of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the FAFSA available to each member of the CNG, SMR, and Naval Militia not having a baccalaureate degree.
 - 2) Requests OTAG to assist these persons in completing these forms, as needed.
 - 3) Requests that OTAG also make available additional information regarding the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill and the state's California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNGEAAP) program, and contact information for veterans' educational assistance.
- Signed by the Governor.

AJR 11 (Burke)

This resolution urges the President and Congress of the United States to recognize the unique military value of California's defense installations and the disproportionate sacrifices California endured in previous base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds.

- Chaptered.

SB 193 (Committee on Veterans Affairs)

This bill cleans up portions of the Military and Veterans Code by deleting outdated references to federal executive orders and statutes (which the State borrows to define military law for the active state militia), and by adding updated references to federal law.

- Signed by the Governor.

SB 536 (Roth)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to draw on funds in the Property Acquisition Law Money Account (PAL Account) in order to pay for ongoing costs associated with the marketing and sales of unused National Guard armories.
 - 2) Requires net proceeds from the sale or lease of an armory to be deposited into the Armory Fund.
 - 3) Authorizes the Director of DGS, with the approval of the TAG, to sell seven specific armories. (Listed below under Background.
- Signed by the Governor.