

Veteran & Military Bills Passed - 80th Session

For more information, please contact Jenee Margo Gonzales: (512) 463-2211

Bill Number	HB 86
Caption/Summary	Relating to tuition rebates provided by general academic teaching institutions to students who participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Helps ROTC students participating in the B on Time Loan program.
Authors	Branch Garcia
Coauthors	Brown, Fred Parker
Sponsor	Ogden
Effective Date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 125
Caption/Summary	Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for the children of certain military personnel. Allows the children of totally disabled veterans to access the Hazlewood tuition exemption.
Authors	Delisi Corte, Frank Escobar Garcia Haggerty
Coauthors	Aycock Crabb Farabee Gonzalez Toureilles Guillen et al.
Sponsor	Van de Putte
Cosponsor	Uresti
Effective date	6/16/07
Bill Number	HB 191
Caption/Summary	Relating to fees for issuance of specialty license plates to members and former members of the United States armed forces and their surviving spouses. HB 191 brackets the many types of military license plates into three categories, and makes each category uniform regarding charges for the license plates, and reduces or eliminates the fees for some plates.
Authors	Miller Pickett Leibowitz Escobar
Sponsor	Carona
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 233
Caption/Summary	Relating to a waiver or reduction of concealed handgun license fees for certain members and veterans of the military. Waives CHL fee altogether for active duty/current guard/reserve members and honorably discharged veterans who were discharged in the last 365 days. Reduces fee for all other veterans by 50 percent.
Authors	Ritter Howard, Charlie Merritt Guillen Farabee
Coauthors	Chavez Crabb Gallego Hopson Hughes et al.
Sponsor	Estes
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	HB 1187

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Caption/Summary	Relating to vouchers for tuition and required fees at certain institutions of higher education and excused absences from public school for students who sound "Taps" at a veteran's funeral. Provides a tuition exemption program to allow eligible students to play "Taps" at military funeral services in exchange for a tuition voucher at an institution of higher education in Texas.
Author	Morrison
Sponsor	Van de Putte
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 1260
Caption/Summary	Relating to exempting certain military personnel from certain state and local governmental fees. Exempts a service member preparing for deployment from certain fees such as those to obtain a marriage license or copy of birth certificate.
Author	Martinez, "Mando" Escobar Herrero Guillen Leibowitz
Sponsor	Hinojosa
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	HB 1275
Caption/Summary	Relating to the appeal by an individual entitled to a veteran's preference of certain adverse employment decisions. Allows a veteran claiming denial of veteran employment preference at public entity to appeal the decision to the governing board of the entity.
Author	McClendon Rose
Sponsor	Uresti
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	HB 1416
Caption/Summary	Relating to the authority of the Veterans' Land Board to sell certain loans issued by the Veterans' Land Board. Allows VLB to sell land loans and operate more effectively.
Author	Corte, Frank
Coauthor	Aycock
Sponsor	Van de Putte
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	HB 1633
Caption/Summary	Relating to the determination of eligibility for Medicaid for certain persons in the armed forces and their family members. Expedites the process of applying for Medicaid for military families.
Author	Geren
Coauthor	King, Susan
Sponsor	Deuell
Cosponsor	Shapleigh
Effective date	9/1/07

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Bill Number	HB 1852
Caption/Summary	Relating to the authority of a county to regulate the installation and use of lighting in certain areas. Allows the commissioners court of a county located adjacent to a military installation to regulate the installation and use of outdoor lighting within five miles of the installation at the request of the installation's commanding officer.
Author	Corte, Frank
Sponsor	Van de Putte
Effective date	5/25/07
Bill Number	HB 1853
Caption/Summary	Relating to exempting certain state agencies from certain laws relating to real property transactions. Enables the Veterans Land Board to operate more efficiently.
Author	Corte, Frank
Sponsor	Van de Putte
Effective date	5/25/07
Bill Number	HB 2105
Caption/Summary	Relating to the issuance of disabled parking placards to and the registration of vehicles by certain veterans with disabilities. Allows certain veterans with disabilities to receive two disabled parking placards in addition to two sets of special license plates.
Authors	Chisum Escobar Vaught Guillen
Coauthors	Gonzalez Toureilles Miller
Sponsor	Williams
Effective date	5/15/07
Bill Number	HB 2130
Caption/Summary	Relating to hunting and fishing license fee exemptions for certain members of the armed forces. Currently, disabled vets and members of the US military forces can get a free hunting/fishing license. This bill would expand the exemptions to include all members of the Texas Military Forces.
Authors	Noriega, Rick Guillen Leibowitz Miller Crabb
Coauthors	Eiland Farabee
Sponsor	Harris
Effective date	5/25/07
Bill Number	HB 2398
Caption/Summary	Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to immediate family members of a person who dies while serving in the United States armed forces. Establishes "Gold Star Spouse" and "Gold Star Family" license plates.
Authors	Delisi Gonzalez Toureilles
Coauthors	Aycock Miller
Sponsor	Wentworth
Effective date	6/15/07

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Bill Number	HB 2718
Caption/Summary	Relating to treatment of retrospective premiums for group life insurance issued through certain nonprofit membership associations. Clarifies the exemption from taxation of certain monies paid to nonprofit armed services associations.
Authors	Paxton Turner Smith, Todd
Sponsor	Ellis
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 2895
Caption/Summary	Relating to the criteria for awarding the Texas Humanitarian Service Medal to certain members of the state military forces. Expands eligibility to members serving under Title 32 (state authority).
Author	Flynn
Sponsor	Hinojosa
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 2896
Caption/Summary	Relating to an award for certain members of the state military forces and civilians for superior service. Creates award.
Author	Flynn
Sponsor	Hinojosa
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 2897
Caption/Summary	Relating to an award for certain members of the state military forces who served in defense support to a civilian authority mission. Creates award.
Author	Flynn
Sponsor	Hinojosa
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 3140
Caption/Summary	Relating to the review and functions of the Veterans' Land Board. Sunset bill includes extensive recommendations and requirements.
Authors	Flynn Cook, Byron Truitt Kolkhorst McClendon
Coauthor	Aycock
Sponsor	Shapleigh
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 3426
Caption/Summary	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Veterans Commission. Sunset bill includes extensive recommendations and requirements.
Authors	Flynn Cook, Byron Truitt Kolkhorst McClendon
Coauthor	Anderson

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Sponsor	Shapleigh
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	HB 3470
Caption/Summary	Relating to the program of supplemental health coverage for individuals eligible under the TRICARE military health system offered through the Employees Retirement System of Texas. Makes small change to law created by HB 417, 79th Legislature, allowing state employees to choose TRICARE coverage instead of the state health care plan.
Author	Delisi
Sponsor	Williams
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 3537
Caption/Summary	Relating to the adoption of a child by a person serving in the military. Ensures that a person's military status does not negatively affect an adoption.
Author	Garcia
Sponsor	Hinojosa
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 3787
Caption/Summary	Relating to a probate fee exemption for estates of members of the armed forces of the United States who died while serving in a combat zone. Exempts the estates of soldiers killed in combat zones from filing and administrative fees associated with probate of an estate.
Authors	Isett, Carl Crabb Haggerty
Coauthors	Berman Flores Goolsby Hughes Jones, Delwin et al.
Sponsor	Shapleigh
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	HB 3879
Caption/Summary	Relating to the powers and duties of defense base development authorities; modifying the power of eminent domain. Clarifies the powers and duties of Port San Antonio.
Author	Menendez
Sponsor	Uresti
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 90
Caption/Summary	Relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide a ballot by electronic mail to military personnel serving overseas. Allows the transmittal, under certain circumstances, of a ballot to a service member via electronic mail.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthor	Uresti
Sponsors	Corte, Frank Naishtat

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 251
Caption/Summary	Relating to parking of a motor vehicle operated by or for the transportation of a veteran with a disability in certain parking spaces; providing a criminal penalty. Allows a veteran with disabled plates to park in handicap spaces.
Author	Harris
Coauthors	Fraser Shapleigh
Sponsor	Harper-Brown
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 274
Caption/Summary	Relating to the issuance of Silver Star Medal license plates. Creates plates for Silver Star Medal recipients.
Author	Estes
Coauthor	Brimer
Sponsor	Escobar
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 277
Caption/Summary	Relating to the use in an advertisement of a name or picture of a member of the United States armed forces or the state military forces; providing a criminal penalty. Prohibits the commercial use of a name or photo of service member without the consent of the person or his or her heirs.
Authors	Shapiro Uresti
Sponsor	Harper-Brown
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 309
Caption/Summary	Relating to the requirement that a career school or college adopt a refund policy for students called to active military service. Establishes that requirement.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthors	Uresti Shapleigh
Sponsor	Garcia
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 310
Caption/Summary	Relating to the Texas Veterans Commission's authority to make performance incentive awards for providing services to veterans. Ensures that TVC can reward employees providing excellent service through federal funds designated for that purpose.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthors	Uresti West, Royce Shapleigh
Sponsor	Farabee

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 311
Caption/Summary	Relating to reemployment rights of certain members of the National Guard. Protects the employment of a Texan serving in the National Guard of another state.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthor	Shapleigh
Sponsor	Noriega, Rick
Effective date	6/15/07
Bill Number	SB 361
Caption/Summary	Relating to the deadline for submitting a federal postcard application to the early voting clerk. Gives 10 extra days for military voters to register to vote.
Author	Janek
Sponsor	Davis, John
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 363
Caption/Summary	Relating to protecting certain members of the Texas National Guard from exposure to depleted uranium and assisting certain members who may have been exposed to obtain federal government services. Requires TVC and the Adjutant General to assist guard members and former members in obtaining screening and testing.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthor	Uresti
Sponsor	Noriega, Rick
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 685
Caption/Summary	Relating to an exemption from tuition and mandatory fees for certain members of the Texas National Guard. Exempts guard members using the Tuition Assistance Program from paying mandatory fees.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthor	Shapleigh
Sponsor	Noriega, Rick Escobar
Effective date	6/16/07
Bill Number	SB 959
Caption/Summary	Relating to including the international symbol of access on certain specialty license plates. Ensures that all specialty license plates in Texas can be made to contain the international symbol of access (the wheelchair logo).
Author	Shapleigh
Sponsor	Quintanilla
Effective date	9/1/07

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Bill Number	SB 960
Caption/Summary	Relating to the administration of exit-level state assessment instruments to transfer students who are dependents of military personnel. Allows military-connected students who transfer into Texas high schools during junior year to use the SAT or ACT as their exit-level tests.
Author	Shapleigh
Sponsor	Haggerty
Effective date	Vetoed by the governor
Bill Number	SB 962
Caption/Summary	Relating to funding under the instructional facilities allotment and to payment of existing debt for school districts affected by troop reassignments at military installations. Credits school districts dealing with an influx of students due to base realignment and closure in the facilities allotment process.
Author	Shapleigh
Sponsor	Haggerty
Effective date	9/1/07 (except as otherwise provided in the bill)
Bill Number	SB 1058
Caption/Summary	Relating to reintegration counseling services and related resources for military servicemembers. Coordinates services for returning veterans and their families, using the 2-1-1 system and incorporating agencies and stakeholders at the federal, state, and local level.
Author	West, Royce
Coauthors	Shapleigh Van de Putte Hinojosa
Sponsors	Noriega, Rick Merritt Escobar Raymond Hodge
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 1237
Caption/Summary	Relating to the powers and duties of defense base development authorities; modifying the power of eminent domain. Clarifies the powers and duties of Port San Antonio.
Author	Uresti Van de Putte
Sponsor	Menendez Corte, Frank
Effective date	9/1/07
Bill Number	SB 1724
Caption/Summary	Relating to abolishing the Texas Military Facilities Commission and transferring its functions to the adjutant general. Abolishes the TMFC and transfers its functions to the Adjutant General's Department.
Author	Ogden
Sponsor	Noriega, Rick
Effective date	9/1/07

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Bill Number	SB 1956
Caption/Summary	Relating to assistance for local areas affected by defense restructuring. Cleans up the statutory language relating to the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant, which was appropriated \$5 million this session.
Author	Van de Putte
Coauthors	Eltife Hinojosa
Sponsor	Corte, Frank
Effective date	9/1/07