

1 April 11 Legislative Update: Status of Veteran Centric Bills filed during the 82nd Texas Legislature

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John Miterko

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to Tony, Sandy, William, Robert, Russell, Steve, Mike, Josh, Walquiria, John, Mary, Norman, Marilyn, David, Kerwin, James, Russ, James, Wayne, Richard, Debby, Jennifer, Felix, Patsy, Paul, Advisory

The following and attached are veteran and active duty military bills that have been filed during the 82nd Texas Legislature.

Please advise me if you have any questions.

John A Miterko
Legislative Liaison
Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations

Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations Priorities for 82nd Texas Legislature:

1. Transferring the 100% property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans to their widows and/or eligible dependent children. This will, of course, require a change to the Texas Constitution as well as enabling legislation.

Status: in the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installation Interim Report to Lt Gov Dewhurst, under Section Other: Item 12: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the VAMI Committee, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, and previous legislative sessions and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation.

Next step: prepare and present a proposal for a change to the Texas Constitution along with enabling legislation that would allow for the transfer of the benefit to surviving spouses and/or minor dependent children of 100% disabled veterans.

Legislation filed in support of transferring the 100% property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans to their widows and/or eligible dependent children:

House Bills: 19 total

- HB 95: Fletcher et al: relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation on the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran; **2/9/2011: referred to Ways & Means Committee**
- HJR 23: Fletcher et al: proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled; **2/9/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 313: Pickett: relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation on the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran; **referred to Ways and Means 2/15/2011**
- HJR 40: Pickett: proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled; 2/21/2011: **referred to Ways & means**
- HB 461: Kleinschmidt: relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HJR 47: Kleinschmidt: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled on the same property. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 469: Callegari: Relating to the calculation of ad valorem taxes on the residence homestead of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran for the tax year in which the veteran qualifies or ceases to qualify for an exemption from taxation of the homestead. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means; scheduled for public hearing on 3/7/11; considered in public hearing; left pending in committee; 3/28/11 reported favorably as substituted; voted out of House Ways & Means Comm**

- HB 472: Charles "Doc" Anderson/Farias: Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HJR 48: Charles "Doc" Anderson/Farias: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled on the same property. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 526: McClendon: Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 576: McClendon/Kleinschmidt: Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran. **2/18/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HJR 52: McClendon: proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled on the same property. **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 767: Lozano et al: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans; **2/22/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 781: King, Phil: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran; **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HJR 72: King, Phil: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled. **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 833: Lozano: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran or the principal residence of the surviving minor children of such a disabled veteran; **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HJR 76: Lozano: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran or the principal residence of the surviving minor children of such a disabled veteran; **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 1880: Madden: Relating to a limitation on the appraised value for ad valorem tax purposes of certain residence homesteads of certain veterans. **2/28/2011 Filed; 3/7/11: referred to Ways & Means**

- HJR 108: Madden: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a limitation on the appraised value for ad valorem tax purposes of certain residence homesteads of certain veterans. **2/28/2011: Filed**

Senate Bills: 5 total

- SB 201: Uresti: relating to the calculation of ad valorem taxes on the residence homestead of a 100% or totally disabled veteran for the tax year in which the veteran qualifies or ceases to qualify for an exemption from taxation of the homestead: **status: 1/31/2011: referred to Finance; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee; considered in public hearing 3/28/11. Placed on Intent Calendar for 4/4/11**

- SB 357: Van de Putte/Davis, Wendy/Deuell/Ellis/Hinojosa/Lucio/Rodriguez, Jose/Uresti/Watson/Zaffirini: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran or the principal residence of the surviving minor children of such a disabled veteran: **status: 2/2/2011: referred to Finance; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; testimony taken in committee; left pending in Committee.**

- SJR 14: Van de Putte/Davis, Wendy/Deuell/Ellis/Hinojosa/Lucio/Rodriguez, Jose/Uresti/Watson/Zaffirini/Gallegos: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran or the principal residence of the surviving minor children of such a disabled veteran. **Status: referred to Finance 2/2/2011. 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; testimony taken in committee; left pending in Committee.**

- SB 516: Patrick: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran; **2/17/2011: referred to Finance; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; testimony taken in committee; left pending in Committee.**

- SJR 21: Patrick: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran in an amount equal to the amount of the residence homestead exemption to which the disabled veteran was entitled; **2/14/2011: referred to Finance Committee; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; testimony taken in committee; left pending in Committee.**

Other Veterans property tax legislation: House Bills 14 total

- HB 26: Guillen: relating to a freeze on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a taxing unit on the residence homestead of an eligible person who is a member of a reserve component of the US Armed Forces and is ordered to active military duty; **2/9/2011: Referred to Ways and Means**
- HJR 17: Guillen: proposing a Constitutional Amendment to authorize a political subdivision to establish a freeze on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a taxing unit on the residence homestead of an eligible person who is a member of a reserve component of the US Armed Forces and is ordered to active military duty; **2/9/2011: referred to Ways & Means Committee**
- HJR 53: Christian: Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting any political subdivision of this state from imposing ad valorem taxes; **2/21/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HJR 62: Zerwas: proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year **2/18/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HB 445: Guillen: Relating to the eligibility of a disabled veteran or surviving spouse to pay ad valorem taxes imposed on a residence homestead in installments; **2/16/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 609: Zerwas: Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation **2/18/2011: referred to Ways & Means**
- HB 635: Guillen: Relating to a grace period to cure a default before foreclosure of certain contract liens on the residence of certain surviving spouses of military servicemembers; **2/21/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/3/2011: Public Hearing**
- HB 640: Sheets: Relating to an exemption from the motor vehicle sales and use tax for military servicemembers serving on active duty. **2/21/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HB 732: Hobson: Relating to increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$15,000 to \$30,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a school district on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, and protecting school districts against the resulting loss in local revenue. **2/22/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HB 798: Creighton: Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation. **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & means**
- HB 1127: Gutierrez: Relating to notice of relief available to certain members of the military required to be provided in certain real property documentation

•□□□HJR 68: Hopson: Proposing a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$30,000 and providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount. **2/22/2011: referred to Ways & Means**

•□□□HJR 74: Creighton: Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year; **2/23/2011: referred to Ways & Means**

•□□□HJR 79: Howard (Charlie): Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year.

Senate Bills: 6 bills total

•□□□SB 101: Van de Putte: related to prohibiting nonjudicial foreclosure by a property owners' association on residences owned by certain members of the military: **status: 1/31/2011: referred to Intergovernmental Relations; scheduled for public hearing on 3/9/11; 3/14/11: reported favorably as substituted; voted out of Committee; recommended for local and consent calendar; 3/14/11 Committee report printed and distributed; 3/16/11: placed on Intent Calendar; 3/24/11: placed on local & uncontested calendar; read 2nd time and passed to engrossment; read 3rd time; passed; vote recorded; rpt engrossed; received from Senate; **Bill has Passed Senate**. 3/29/11: referred to House Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**

•□□□SB 201: Uresti: Relating to the calculation of ad valorem taxes on the residence homestead of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran for the tax year in which the veteran qualifies or ceases to qualify for an exemption from taxation of the homestead; **status: referred to Finance; 3/30/11 reported favorably Out Of Finance Committee; recommended for Local & Uncontested Calendar**

•□□□SB 326: Duncan: Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain tangible personal property stored temporarily at a location in this state: **status: referred to Finance 2/2/2011. Scheduled for public hearing on 3/28/11.**

•□□□SB 1002: Van de Putte: Relating to the designation of program costs for providing bill payment assistance to certain military veterans as a necessary operating expense that is a first lien against revenue of certain electric and gas utilities' revenue securing certain public securities or obligations. **2/28/2011 Filed**

•□□□SB 1089: Rodriguez: Relating to the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by the surviving spouse or surviving minor children of a

member of the armed forces of the United States who dies while on active duty.
3/2/11: Filed; 3/16/11: read first time & referred to Finance

•□□□ SJR 32: Rodriguez: Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by the surviving spouse or surviving minor children of a member of the armed forces of the United States who dies while on active duty. **3/2/11: Filed; 3/16/11: read first time & referred to Finance**

2. Adjusting the dollar amount that will be used to reduce the appraised value of the principal residence/homestead of a veteran disabled less than 100%. The maximum amount, as you are well aware, is \$12,000. That amount has not been changed in recent memory.

Status: in the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installation Interim Report to Lt Gov Dewhurst, under Section Other: Item 12: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the VAMI Committee, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, and previous legislative sessions and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation.

Questions that have been asked include: when were the various amounts ranging from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$12,000 enacted into law? What was the average value of property in Texas at the time that the exemption was enacted? During the intervening years the dollar amount of the exemption has remained constant while property values have increased.

Recommendation: determine what the original value of the exemption was in comparison to the value of property at the time that the exemption was passed and bring the dollar amount of the exemption back to the original value ratio. In the future, perhaps annually, adjust the dollar amount of the exemptions to coincide with the changes in the value of property.

Action taken: prepared and presented a proposal to VAMI to begin work on determining the change in values to property in Texas since the law was enacted, and to adjust the dollar value of the exemption to the original percentage when the law was enacted.

Status: under review; additional financial impact data has been requested and will be reviewed in detail when received.

- SB 540: Van de Putte: Relating to a study of the fiscal impact of adjusting the amount of the ad valorem tax exemption to which disabled veterans and the surviving spouses and children of disabled veterans and certain members of the armed forces are entitled; **2/17/2011: referred to Finance; scheduled for public hearing on 4/4/11**

3. Re-introduction of legislation to recognize Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) as a category of small business with equal standing to State HUB (minority, women, etc) business enterprises.

Status: in the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installation Interim Report to Lt Gov Dewhurst, under Section Workforce: Item 8: Examine how the State can increase opportunities for businesses owned by disabled veterans or non-profit veteran service organizations that run businesses and employ a large percentage of disabled veterans. Offer recommendations that would illustrate the State's support of disabled veteran owned and run businesses.

Action taken: proposed legislation has been formulated and will be submitted to potential sponsors in the Senate and House before the start of the 82nd Legislature.

- SB 327: Van de Putte/ Davis, Wendy: Relating to including certain veterans service organizations as small businesses for the purpose of state contracting: **status: referred to Government Organization 2/2/2011. 3/14/11: considered in public hearing; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; 3/24/11: reported favorably without amendments; recommended for Local & Uncontested Calendar; Committee report printed and distributed; out of Senate Committee; 3/28/11: placed on Intent Calendar.**

- HB 1574: Garza: Relating to including certain veterans service organizations as small businesses for the purpose of state contracting; **filed 2/21/2011; 3/3/11 read first time; referred to State Affairs**

•□□□HB 888: Guillen/Huberty/Cook/Alvarado/Harless/Margo: Relating to considering ownership interests of disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting; **1/26/2011: filed; 2/24/2011: referred to State Affairs; scheduled for Public Hearing on 3/2/11; Reported favorably as substituted on 3/9/11; 3/17/11: Committee report filed with Committee Coordinator; Committee report distributed; 3/21/11: Committee report sent to Calendars**

•□□□HB 1096: Farias: Relating to considering ownership interests of certain disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting; **filed 2/2/2011; 2/28/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/17/11: considered in public hearing; testimony take; left pending in Committee**

•□□□SB 806: Hinojosa/Wentworth: Relating to considering ownership interests of disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting **filed 2/21/2011; 3/1/2011: referred to State Affairs**

•□□□SB 831: Rodriguez/Wentworth: Relating to considering ownership interests of certain disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting; filed **2/22/2011; 3/1/2011: referred to State Affairs**

4. Expand, streamline, and simplify the military voting bill process for men and women in uniform serving overseas, under seas, and on temporary duty in the Continental USA.

Status: in the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Interim Report to Lt Gov Dewhurst, under Section Other: Item 11: Assess the successfulness of the military voting pilot program including benefits and costs. Provide recommendations to implement a permanent statewide program.

Legislation filed: 3 House bills and 2 Senate bills

•□□□SB 100: Van de Putte: relating to the adoption of voting procedures necessary to implement the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act: **status: 1/31/2011: referred to State Affairs; 3/14/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee.**

- HB 111: Taylor, Van: identical to SB 100; **2/17/2011: referred to House Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 1502: White: Relating to allowing military voters on active duty overseas to receive and cast a ballot electronically. **2/18/2011: filed; 3/2/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 3585: Taylor, Van: Relating to the adoption of voting procedures necessary to implement the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act; **3/11/11 Filed; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- SB 904: Patrick | Birdwell | Hinojosa | Ogden | Uresti relating to the eligibility of certain over seas voters to receive a full ballot; **2/23/11: filed; 3/8/11: referred to State Affairs; 3/21/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee**

Voting to include Military Voting: 8 House bills and 1 Senate bill

- HB 16: Riddle: relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification; **2/9/2011: referred to House Select Committee for Voter Identification & Voter Fraud; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 112: Harless: relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification; **2/11/2011: referred to Voter Identification & Voter Fraud Select Committee; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 179: Alonzo: relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedures; **2/11/2011: referred to Elections Committee**
- HB 186: Perry: relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification; creating a penalty; **referred to Voter Identification & Voter Fraud Select Committee; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 250: Hilderbran: relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification; providing penalties; **: referred to Voter Identification & Voter Fraud Select Committee; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 539: Charles "Doc" Anderson: relating to requiring to present proof of identification; **2/17/2011: referred to Voter Identification & Voter Fraud, Select; 3/23/11: referred to Elections**
- HB 631: Chisum: relating to processing certain early voting ballots before election day; **2/21/2011: referred to Elections**
- HB 2173: Torres: Relating to a pilot program allowing certain military and overseas voters to receive and cast a ballot electronically. **3/8/11: referred to Elections**

•□□□SB 178: Birdwell/Fraser/Carona/Duncan/Estes/Harris/Huffman/Jackson/Nelson/Patrick/Seliger/Wentworth/Williams co-authors: Deuell/Hegar/Nichols: relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of identification; providing criminal penalties **11/8/10 filed; 1/24/11: co authors authorized**

5. Other General Veteran related legislation that has been filed prior to the start of the 82nd Legislature:

House Bills: 56 bills total

•□□□HB 74: Flynn / Sheffield / Landtroop / Farias: identical to SB 99; **2/9/2011: referred to Defense & veterans Affairs; 3/3/2011 Public Hearing; 3/10/11: considered in public hearing; recommended to be sent to Local & Consent; reported favorably without amendments; 3/15/11 filed with Committee Coordinator; committee report distributed; 3/16/11 report sent to Local & Consent Calendar; 3/30/11: Placed on Local & Consent Calendar; 3/30/11: Passed House; 3/31/11: received in Senate**

•□□□HB 55: Martinez, Mando: relating to the use of the Texas Enterprise Fund for veterans hospitals; **2/9/2011: referred to House Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing on 4/7/11**

•□□□HB 80: Flynn: Relating to registration with the Selective Service System of certain applicants for a driver's license or personal identification certificate. **2/9/2011: referred to Homeland Security & Public Safety/Farias**

•□□□HB 182: Miller, Sid: relating to the issuance of Bronze Star specialty license plates. **3/3/2011: Defense & Veterans Affairs Public Hearing; considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee**

•□□□HB 375: Alonzo: relating to establishing veterans resource centers at certain institutions of higher education; **2/16/2011: referred to Higher Education**

•□□□HB 388: Raymond / Guillen / Lozano: relating to the designation of segments of State Highways 359, 16, and 285 as the Veterans of the Korean War Memorial Highway: **2/23/11: considered in public hearing; favorably reported; 3/1/11 Committee report sent to Local & Consent Calendar; 3/24/11: considered in Local & Consent Calendars; 3/30/11: placed on Local & Consent Calendar**

•□□□HB 522: Sheffield: Relating to an exemption from the motor vehicle use tax for motor vehicles brought into this state by military service members serving on active duty; **2/17/2011: referred to Ways & Means**

•□□□HB 559: Sheffield/Sid Miller/Aycock: Relating to Bronze Star Medal specialty license plates; **2/18/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/3/2011**

Public Hearing; 3/17/11 considered in public hearing; committee substitute considered in committee; recommended to be sent to Local & Consent Calendar; reported favorably as substituted; 3/28/11: Committee report filed with Committee Coordinator; Bill is out of Committee; 3/29/11 Comm rpt sent to Local & Consent Calendar

•□□□HB 585: Kleinschmidt: Relating to awards for certain members of the state military forces inducted into federal service in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom **2/18/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs**

•□□□HB 586: Kleinschmidt: Relating to the eligibility of certain members of the Texas State Guard or Texas National Guard for burial in the state cemetery **2/18/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs**

•□□□HB 606: Farias: relating to the issuance of Bronze Star Medal license plates; **2/21/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/3/2011 Considered in Public Hearing; left pending in Committee**

•□□□HB 649: Sheets: relating to an exemption from the motor vehicle sales and use tax for military service members serving on active duty; **2/21/11: referred to Criminal Jurisprudence**

•□□□HB 657: Lewis: relating to honorary license plates for certain disabled veterans; 2/21/2011: **referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**

•□□□HB 685: Dutton: relating to the authority of the attorney general representing the state to dismiss a criminal action based on the omission of a nonviolent offense; **2/21/2011: referred to Criminal Jurisprudence**

•□□□HB 866: Flynn: relating to tuition assistance for members of the Texas State Guard; **2/24/11: referred to Higher Education**

•□□□HB 938: Smithee: relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for women veterans; **2/24/2011: referred to Defense & veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing on 3/31/11**

•□□□HB 950: Lozano: Relating to eligibility for and the establishment of service credit in the Employees Retirement System of Texas for military service. **2/24/2011: referred to Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**

•□□□HB 953: Lozano: Relating to consumer debt owed by certain military servicemembers; **2/28/2011: referred to Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**

•□□□HB 973: Kleinschmidt: Relating to awards for certain members of the state military forces who were inducted into, served in, or volunteered for federal service in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom; **2/28/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/17/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee; 3/31/11 reported out of Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee favorably as substituted**

- HB 1039: Alvarado: relating to death benefits for eligible survivors of certain Texas National Guard members; **2/28/11 referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs**
- HB 1080: Gallego: Relating to an exemption for active duty personnel and certain veterans from the requirement to complete a hunter education program; **2/28/2011: referred to Culture, Recreation & Tourism; public hearing 3/16/11; left pending in Committee**
- HB 1148: Smith, Wayne: Relating to an exemption for certain disabled veterans from the payment of a fee for the issuance of a personal identification certificate; **3/16/11: considered in public hearing; recommended to be sent to Local & Consent Calendar; reported favorably without amendments; 3/21/11: Committee report sent to Local & Consent Calendar**
- HB 1172: Fletcher: relating to resources available to the Texas Veterans Commission; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; considered in public hearing 3/10/11: left pending in Committee**
- HB 1178: Flynn: relating to employment protection for members of the state military forces; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 1329: Raymond: relating to a waiver of concealed handgun license fees for certain veterans of the military. **3/24/11 public hearing**
- HB 1385: Harless: relating to personalization of certain license plates issued to veterans with disabilities; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 1397: Farias: prohibiting nonjudicial foreclosure by a property owners' association on residences owned by certain members of the military; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 1404: Sheffield: relating to certain temporary orders in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship during a parent's military deployment; **3/1/2011: referred to Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence; 3/7/03: scheduled for public hearing; 3/14/2011 H Reported favorably w/o amendment(s); 3/21/11: Committee report sent to Calendars; 3/30/11 placed on General Calendars 2nd Reading; 3/30/11 Passed to Engrossment; 3/31/11: vote recorded; Passed House**
- HB 1408: Flynn: relating to resident fishing license fees for military personnel; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/23/11: public hearing; left pending in Committee**
- HB 1409: Flynn: relating to the designation of a segment of State Highway 243 in Van Zandt County as the Veterans Memorial Parkway; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; 3/16/11: considered in public hearing; recommended to be sent to Local & Consent Calendar; reported favorably without amendment; 3/24/11: considered in Local & Consent Calendars; 3/30/11: placed on Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar; 3/30/11 Passed House; 3/31/11: received in Senate**

- HB 1432: Strama: relating to the creation, operation, and funding of the Texas Sustainable Youth Program; **3/1/2011: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs**
- HB 1448: Smith, Wayne: Relating to an exemption for certain disabled veterans from the payment of a fee for the issuance of a personal identification certificate; **2/28/2011: referred to Transportation; scheduled for public hearing 3/9/11; 3/12/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in committee**
- HB 1469: Hernandez Luna: Relating to exempting certain fraternal and veterans organizations from certain bond requirements to obtain an alcoholic beverage permit or license. **3/2/11: referred to Licensing & Administration; 3/22/11: public hearing on 3/22/11; left pending in committee**
- HB 1514: Isaac: Relating to the issuance to veterans of specially marked driver's licenses. **3/2/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; public hearing 3/10/11; left pending in committee**
- HB 1516: Isaac: Relating to excused absences from public school for the purpose of enlisting in the armed services. **3/2/11: referred to Public Education**
- HB 1544: Hunter: Relating to the design of specialty license plates issued to members and former members of the United States armed forces. **3/2/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 1701: Legler: Relating to an exemption from the physical demonstration of proficiency portion of the proficiency examination to obtain or renew a concealed handgun license for certain persons; **3/3/11: referred to Homeland Security & Public Safety**
- HB 2371: Kleinschmidt: Relating to the designation of a segment of State Highway 71 as the 95th Division Memorial Highway. **3/7/11: Filed**
- HB 2417: Flynn: relating to the Texas Code of Military Justice. **3/7/11: Filed.**
- HB 2475: Aliseda: Relating to vehicle registration requirements for deployed active military personnel. **3/8/11: filed; 3/14/11 referred to Transportation**
- HB 2562: Christian: Relating to the absence of a student from school to visit with a parent or guardian who will be or has been deployed on military duty. **3/8/11: filed; 3/15/2011 H Referred to Public Education**
- HB 2624: Sheffield: Relating to procedures applicable in circumstances involving family violence or other criminal conduct and military personnel. **3/9/11: filed; 3/24/11: considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee**
- HB 2654: Sheets: Relating to an exclusion from unemployment compensation chargebacks for certain employers of uniformed service members. **3/9/11: filed; referred to Economic & Small Business Development; 3/31/11 public hearing**
- HB 2688: Lucio III: Relating to the amount of a scholarship awarded under the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program. **3/9/11: filed**

- HB 2705: Zedler: Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain Texas military veterans. **3/9/11: filed**
- HB 2851: Mallory Caraway: Relating to deferral of certain surcharge payments for active duty military personnel. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/17/11 read first time; referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 2894: Torres: Relating to discount programs for members of the armed services provided by toll project entities **3/10/11 Filed; 3/17/11: read first time; referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs**
- HB 2905: Branch: Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain military personnel, veterans, and dependents residing in this state. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/17/11: read first time; referred to Higher Education**
- HB 2925: Farias: Relating to the extension of consumer credit to certain members of the Texas National Guard and armed forces of the United States and their dependents; providing a penalty. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/17/11: read first time; referred to Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services**
- HB 2948: Lozano: Relating to the designation of certain highways as part of the Purple Heart Trail. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/17/11: read first time; referred to Transportation; scheduled for public hearing on 3/30/11**
- HB 3074: Veasey: Relating to eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain military personnel, veterans, and dependents residing in this state. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/18/11: referred to Higher Education**
- HB 3153: Torres: Relating to the free admission to state parks for the parents of deceased members of the armed services. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/18/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**
- HB 3179: Farias: Relating to contributions to the fund for veterans' assistance. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/18/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 3/31/11**
- HB 3237: Hernandez Luna: Relating to the establishment and operation of the Texas Women Veterans Program. **3/10/11 Filed; 3/18/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing on 3/31/11**
- HB 3470: Patrick, Diane: Relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program. **3/11/11 Filed; 3/18/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing on 3/31/11**
- HB 3580: Frullo: Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for surviving spouses of disabled veterans of the United States armed forces. **3/11/11 Filed; 3/23/11: referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs; scheduled for public hearing 4/7/11**

Senate Bills: 41 bills total

•□□□SB 32: Zaffirini: relating to the consolidation of related higher education programs governing tuition, fee exemptions, and waivers respective to specific target populations: **status: 1/31/2011 referred to Higher Education**

•□□□SB 34: Zaffirini/Davis, Wendy/Huffman/Nelson/Shapiro/Van de Putte/et al: relating to the establishment and operation of the Texas Women Veterans Program: **status: 1/31/2011: referred to Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installations (VAMI) committee; 3/16/11 considered in public hearing; left pending in Committee<**

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