

**Air Force Association
Wright-Patterson Chapter
April 2018 Legislative Updates**

Ohio State Updates

HB 24: VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (Ginter, T.)

To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property, to make appropriations and otherwise provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs, and to declare an emergency.

House Concurs in Senate Amendments (3/21/2018; Concurrence: 90-1 (Brinkman); Emergency: 87-2 (Brinkman & Householder))

HB 38: AGGRAVATED MURDER (Greenspan, D.)

To provide that purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member is aggravated murder and to require an offender to serve the prison term imposed for felonious assault on a peace officer, investigator, first responder, or military member consecutively to the prison term imposed for any related offense.

Committee Hearing in Senate Judiciary (1/30/2018; CONTINUED (See separate story))

HB 48: WAR RELICS (Schaffer, T.)

To prohibit a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being sold or otherwise disposed of, or destroyed, relocated, removed, altered, or otherwise disturbed, except under certain circumstances.

Committee Hearing in House Criminal Justice (6/20/2017; CONTINUED-AMENDED)

HB 75: PROFESSIONAL LICENSES (Gavarone, T., Merrin, D.)

To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.

Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/15/2017; CONTINUED (No testimony))

HB 158: MILITARY TRANSFERS (Perales, R., Craig, H.)

To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Committee Hearing in Senate Finance (3/20/2018; CONTINUED)

HB 202: AWARENESS DAY (Thompson, A.)

To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day."

Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/27/2018; CONTINUED)

HB 238: VETERANS WAIVER (Retherford, W., Brenner, A.)

To establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (9/20/2017; CONTINUED (No testimony))

HB 254: POW/MIA FLAG (Wiggam, S.) To enact the POW/MIA Remembrance Act requiring the POW/MIA flag to be displayed at certain buildings operated by the state on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans' Day. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018; CONTINUED/AMENDED)

HB 295: DOG REGISTRATIONS (Goodman, W.) To exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (10/24/2017; CONTINUED)

HB 523: ABUSE REPORTING (Lanese, L., Perales, R.) To establish animal abuse reporting requirements, to require the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program to be notified when a person serving in the armed forces is investigated for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, and to modify the laws regulating counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. Committee Hearing in House Community & Family Advancement (3/14/2018; CONTINUED (See separate story))

SB 81: FIREARMS (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018; REPORTED (No testimony))

SB 107: VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.) To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018; CONTINUED/SUBSTITUTE)

SB 116: MILITARY TRANSFERS (LaRose, F., Williams, S.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Committee Hearing in Senate Finance (6/13/2017; CONTINUED)

SB 170: COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSES (LaRose, F.) To require the Director of Public Safety to seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program regarding the waiver of the skills test for a commercial driver's license that applies to present and former military personnel. Passed in House (3/21/2018; 89-0)

SB 190: VETERAN PAID LEAVE (Hoagland, F.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018; CONTINUED)

AFA Updates

1. Congress passed a two-year budget package for fiscal years (FY) 2018 that started last October 1, 2017 and for FY 2019, which starts October 1, 2018. The previous and artificially low budget caps disproportionately hampered defense and devastated readiness. The new budget agreement set new budget caps and will increase federal spending by about \$300 billion—approximately \$165 billion for the Pentagon and \$131 billion in non-defense domestic spending over two years. This is welcome news for the Air Force, which will no longer need to trade future recapitalization and modernization of its aging systems in order to maintain readiness. With a two-year agreement, the defense department will finally have the stable and predictable funding for which AFA has been advocating.

The FY 2019 Air Force budget increases the lethality of the force while prioritizing increased readiness and modernization. The Air Force's portion requests a 6.6 percent increase (almost \$10B) over last year's budget but still came in third behind the Army and Navy.

2. AFA hosted the first *AFA Summit: The Future Air Force Pilot Force*. The forum on pilot recruitment and retention shortfalls featured working groups and group discussions between Air Force leaders and experts from industry, think tanks, and non-profit organizations on Air Force initiatives and opportunities to broaden the national pilot base, while making it more inclusive.

3. AFA supported a Capitol Hill "Bleed Blue" event for the Air Force, which included five of the 2017 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, Under Secretary of the Air Force Matt Donovan, Air Force leaders, and several congressmen, and staffers. Bleed Blue events align senior Air Force leaders with former Air Force blue suiters who work on Capitol Hill.

4. Congress selected members for a new Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

5. **Avoid Restricting Eligibility for Arlington Burials, AFA Says:** AirForceMag.com | 8 Mar 2018 | by Steve Hirsch, Air Force Magazine. The Air Force Association Thursday came out strongly in favor of pursuing all available options, including expansion, to deal with looming exhaustion of space at Arlington National Cemetery before limiting eligibility. The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery said in January that a survey of 28,000 veterans, service members, military families, and the public found "nearly unanimous support" for keeping the cemetery active for new burials well into the future.

6. **Vets groups oppose new burial restrictions on Arlington Cemetery, but officials see few options:** MilitaryTimes.com | 8 Mar 2018 | by Leo Shane III

Veterans groups on Thursday opposed the idea of severely restricting eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in coming years to ensure the viability of the iconic landmark for decades to come. But military officials said they don't see another realistic choice.

7. **Goldfein: Solutions for the Pilot Crisis Center on Diversity:** AirForceMag.com | 7 Mar 2018 | by John A. Tirpak, Air Force Magazine. The Air Force's pilot shortage crisis offers "an opportunity for bold moves" to build the service's diversity while correcting the growing deficit in aviators, Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said Wednesday at the conclusion of a daylong summit on the problem. Those moves might include grouping minority pilot trainees together at flight school in order to have a built-in support system, building tighter relationships with community groups that promote minorities and women in aviation, making better use of Civil Air Patrol community outreach, and having pilot trainees meet with local schoolchildren as they make stops on cross-country flights.

8. Air Force in Crisis, Part II: How Did We Get Here?: WarOnTheRocks.com | 8 Mar 2018 | by Maj Mike Benitez. The U.S. Air Force is 2,000 pilots short, and the shortage is getting worse. Of the 2,000 pilots the Air Force is currently short, 1,300 of those are fighter pilots. Since the Air Force produces roughly 300 fighter pilots a year, simple math says it took more than a few years of shortages for this crisis to manifest. Distilling internal Air Force retention data by flying community reveals the true crisis: the Air Force has not met its fighter pilot retention goal in 10 years.

9. US Air Force orders freeze on public outreach: DefenseNews.com | 13 Mar 2018 | By Valerie Insinna, David B. Larter, and Aaron Mehta. The U.S. Air Force is slashing access to media embeds, base visits and interviews as it seeks to put the entire public affairs apparatus through retraining — a move it says is necessary for operational security, but one which could lead to a broader freeze in how the service interacts with the public.

AFSA Updates

1. For Vietnam veterans, a 'thank you' long overdue: "The Veterans Affairs Department estimates we are losing more than 500 veterans per day who served during the Vietnam War years. President Trump last year signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing National Vietnam War Veterans Day that will, henceforth, be celebrated every March 29. This March 29 will be the first anniversary of the new law.

2. New VA loan refinance rules: "A banking-reform bill that dials back regulations put in place after the 2008 financial crisis includes language that targets predatory lenders offering VA-backed home loan refinancing. "The Senate voted to pass the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. The House has passed a separate bank-reform bill; per The Associated Press, the next likely step is a compromise bill that would be voted on by both chambers.

3. Mailing of New Veteran ID Cards Delayed: "Veterans waiting for their new ID card to arrive by mail won't see it until at least April, officials announced in an email this week. "The free ID cards, available to honorably discharged veterans of all eras through the Department of Veterans Affairs website, were to be mailed in early March, VA officials told Military.com in January

4. GI Bill Rates Going Up for Private and Foreign Schools in August: Tuition reimbursement is currently limited to \$22,805.34 each year. "Effective Aug. 1, 2018 this amount will go up to \$23,671.94 for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. An academic year is defined by the VA as Aug.1 - Jul. 31

5. AF cuts overseas tours to ease pressure on Airmen: per Gen Foldfein, AF looking at finding the "right balance" with overseas tours suggesting some positions and duties might be able to be accomplished stateside.

6. Make the military sabbatical program permanent?: Lawmaker wants to make the program for AF members for up to one year a permanent program.

7. Mattis to check on military spouse deportation protections: SecDef looking into potential problems with spouses facing possible deportation