

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

**Ohio State Updates**

**Ohio House Bills:**

**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.

**UPDATE:** Signed by the Governor (3/30/2018; Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: Immediately)

**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))

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (2/7/2017)

**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

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (2/8/2017)

**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))

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (2/21/2017)

**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

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (3/23/2017)

**HB 192: VETERAN COMMISSIONS** (Miller, A., Anielski, M.) To permit county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (5/1/2017)

**HB 194 (Enacted) LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards and to modify the law that governs the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus.

**UPDATE:** Signed by the Governor (3/30/2018; Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days)

HB 202 AWARENESS DAY (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day."

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (5/3/2017)

HB 233 FIREARMS (Becker, J.) To enact the "Decriminalization Effort For Ending Notorious Deaths (DEFEND)" to provide an opportunity for a concealed handgun licensee or qualified military member to avoid guilt for carrying a concealed handgun into a prohibited place if the person leaves upon request, and to penalize as disorderly conduct failing to leave upon request or returning with a firearm.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (5/18/2017)

HB 238 VETERANS WAIVER (Retherford, W., Brenner, A.) To establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (5/23/2017)

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

**UPDATE:** Referred in House (6/6/2017; Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security)

HB 272 HUNTING LICENSES (Householder, L., Kick, D.) To allow a landowner's grandchildren of any age to hunt or fish on the landowner's property without obtaining a hunting license, deer permit, wild turkey permit, fur taker permit, fishing license, or waterfowl hunting permit, and to allow certain partially disabled veterans to receive a free license, permit, or wetlands habitat stamp.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (6/14/2017)

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.

**UPDATE:** Referred in House (9/12/2017; Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security)

Introduced in House (6/27/2017)

HB 414 DAY DESIGNATION (Schaffer, T.) To designate July 16 as "National Atomic Veterans Day" in Ohio.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (11/14/2017)

HB 434 LICENSE PLATES (Sweeney, M., Perales, R.) To create the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (1/24/2018)

HB 468 MILITARY LEAVE (Perales, R., Boyd, J.) 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.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018)

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.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in House Community & Family Advancement (3/14/2018)

HB 558 DOG FEES (McClain, R.) 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.

**UPDATE:** Referred in House (3/20/2018)

HB 603 HIGHER ED TUITION (Perales, R.) To grant residency status for in-state tuition purposes at state institutions of higher education to all military service members who are on active duty and to their spouses and dependents.

**UPDATE:** Introduced in House (4/17/2018)

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.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018) Committee Hearing in Senate Judiciary (3/28/2017; CONTINUED) Referred in Senate (3/7/2017; Judiciary) Introduced in Senate (3/2/2017)

#### **Ohio Senate Bills:**

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.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018)

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.

**UPDATE:** Passed in Senate (4/11/2018; 33-0)

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.

**UPDATE:** Senate Concurs in House Amendments (4/11/2018; 33-0) 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.

**UPDATE:** Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018)

SB 212 BRIDGE NAMING (Schiavoni, J.) To designate the bridge spanning State Route 11, that is part of Mahoning Avenue in Austintown Township in Mahoning County, as the "Women Veterans Bridge."

**UPDATE:** Referred in Senate (10/25/2017; Transportation, Commerce & Workforce) Introduced in Senate (10/5/2017)

SB 213 ECONOMIC PROGRAMS (Schiavoni, J.) To enhance economic and employment opportunities and improve local infrastructure in Ohio by providing additional assistance to workforce development and employment programs; establishing a revolving loan program for small businesses seeking to expand operations; extending job tax credits to smaller businesses; enabling expanded participation in public sector contracting by smaller companies; enhancing support for child care centers; funding additional local infrastructure and public transit; authorizing tax incentives for hiring military veterans, for donating money to local programs assisting distressed communities, or for improving distressed property; exempting the homes of disabled veterans from property taxation; terminating the income tax deduction and reduced tax rate for business income; and to make an appropriation.

**UPDATE:** Referred in Senate (11/15/2017; Finance) Introduced in Senate (10/5/2017)

SB 215 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (Skindell, M.) To create the Ohio Pharmaceutical Assistance Program in the Department of Insurance to provide assistance with the cost of prescription drugs for certain seniors, the disabled, veterans, and certain persons who are covered under a Bronze Health Plan sold in the Health Insurance Marketplace established by federal law.

**UPDATE:** Referred in Senate (11/15/2017; Insurance & Financial Institutions) Introduced in Senate (10/5/2017)

SCR 8 MISSILE DEFENSE (O'Brien, S., Eklund, J.) A resolution to urge the United States Missile Defense Agency to select Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ravenna, Ohio, as the preferred site for a future east coast Missile Defense system.

**UPDATE:** Passed in House (1/24/2018; 91-0)

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## **AFA Updates/20 Mar 2018**

### **1. Air Force secretary defends clampdown on public engagements**

DefenseNews.com | 20 Mar 2018 | by Valerie Insinna The service on March 1 temporarily halted media embeds, base visits and interviews until public affairs staff and Air Force officials who regularly speak with the press complete the retraining, Defense News learned earlier this month. The decision unleashed a [public relations nightmare](#) for the service, with some members of Congress and former Air Force officials stepping forward to voice concerns the short-term freeze could have longer-term implications for the service's willingness to engage transparently with the public.

### **2. Exclusive interview: Air Force leaders says total dominance not a 'birthright'**

*MyDaytonDailyNews.com* | 15 Mar 2018 | by Barrie Barber. In an exclusive interview with this news outlet, Undersecretary of the Air Force Matthew P. Donovan, the No. 2 civilian leader, addressed a wide scope of issues — from bigger budgets and emerging threats to rebuilding the nation's nuclear arsenal and boosting capabilities in space. "We're ready now, but it's important to understand ready for what," he told this media outlet at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson. A newly rolled out national defense strategy says, "China is the pacing threat that we need to worry about," he said. "Russia is still a very dangerous country and we do have to be prepared for that because we have friends and allies that we have extended our assurances to that we will help protect them and that's Europe and NATO as over in the Far East."

### **3. Air Force in Crisis, Part III: Dear Boss, It's All About the Culture**

WarOnTheRocks.com | 15 Mar 2018 | by Maj Mike Benitez, USAF. People wrongly assume that pilots who want to fly have achieved the pinnacle of their desires — flying high performance aircraft — and should be happy. But happiness is not about jets, rank, or money. It's about the culture of service. Today's Air Force lacks a foundation to anchor its diverse forces, which were once united by a shared mission. For the past several years, the service has been taking on an infinite number of missions, but without any effort to build a team of teams to support them. In the process, the Air Force severely devalued flying and the fighter pilots who do it. A previously command-driven military organization started to act like a corporation, with management replacing leadership and the culture losing sight of the service's true *raison d'être*: its warfighting forces. The erosion of the Air Force's combat culture is the real reason fighter pilots are leaving.

**4. 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.

**5. 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.

**6. 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.

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

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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/ 26 Mar 2018**

### **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. We must act now to do what should have been done 50 years ago. "Across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor these veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. Spearheading this effort is the [United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration](#) office. "Of special significance, 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. "The [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) in Washington - 'the Wall' - will play a significant role in our nation's honoring of our Vietnam veterans on that special day. The Wall is an arresting reminder to its more than 5 million annual visitors of the service and sacrifice of the more than 58,000 Americans whose names are on that black granite memorial. There is something haunting and yet cleansing about that special place."

### **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 67-31 on Wednesday](#) 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. "Should the VA-related language in the Senate bill survive, it would prohibit lenders from offering [VA-backed refinance loans](#) within six months of a veterans' initial loan. Lenders also would need to provide borrowers with a 'net tangible benefits test' that outlines the full financial scope of the refinanced loan, so borrowers have a complete picture of what they're saving over time."

### 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. "An email update sent March 13, however, announced that printing and mailing for approved ID cards will begin in April." "The printing delay was caused by the review process, which must 'ensure that a valid form of identification and image was provided,' Curt Cashour, a VA spokesman, said in an email."

### 4. GI Bill Rates Going Up for Private and Foreign Schools in August

"If you're going to a private or foreign school and using the Post-9/11 GI Bill you know that your 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. "While the Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay your full tuition & fees if you are going to a state school, the law was changed in 2011 to limit private schools to an annual maximum amount. This was done as a reaction to the large amount of money some private schools were getting from the VA for educating veterans."

## AFA KEY DATES TO WATCH

### 2018

Feb 12	FY 2019 President's Budget Released
Mar 23	5 <sup>th</sup> FY 2018 CR Expired; FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Passed
Apr 11	AFA Breakfast Series with Gen. Robin Rand, Sheraton Pentagon City
May 24	AFA Breakfast Series with Gen. John Raymond, location TBD
Sep 17-19	Air, Space & Cyber Conference, Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor

### 2019

Oct 1	FY 2019 Begins
Feb 27-Mar 1	AFA's Air Warfare Symposium, Orlando, FL