

**SC Military Base Task Force
2019 Legislative Initiatives as of May 30, 2019**

APPROVED BILLS THAT BECAME ACTS

H. 3180 (Representatives G. M. Smith, Erickson, Yow, Huggins, R. Williams, and Jefferson)

South Carolina Service Members Civil Relief Act (House Judiciary)

This bill enumerates certain updated rights, benefits and protections of the service members and their dependents consistent with the rights, benefits and protections of the Federal Service Members Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 3901, et seq.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

2/20/2019 Approved by the House 110 to 0.

3/21/2019 Approved by Senate 43 to 0. Returned to House with amendment.

4/3/2019 House concurred in Senate amendment 106 to 0 and enrolled.

4/25/2019 Ratified R 36.

4/26/2019 Signed by Governor.

Act No. 23

H. 3438 (Representatives Pitts, McCarry, B. Cox, Huggins, Cobb-Hunter, Hixon, W. Cox, Taylor, Davis, Casky and Mace)

Establish the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Executive Branch. (Medical, Military, Public & Municipal Affairs)

This bill moves the Division of Veterans Affairs into the Executive branch as a Department and expands its duties and responsibilities. It also locates the SC Military Base Task Force in the new Department.

Note: Recommendation of the SC Veterans Policy Advisory Committee and the SC Military Base Task Force

2/28/2019 Approved by the House 105 to 0.

3/21/2019 Approved by Senate 43 to 0 and returned to House with amendments.

4/3/2019 House concurred in Senate amendments 81 to 29 and enrolled.

4/25/2019 Ratified R 39.

4/26/2019 Signed by Governor.

Act No. 26

H. 3639 (Representatives Taylor, Allison, Felder and Huggins)

In-state Tuition for Certain Covered Individuals (Education and Public Works)

This bill modifies the definition of "covered individual" to conform to certain changes in federal law related to a person receiving assistance under Section 3102 (a), Title 38.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

2/14/2019 Approved by the House 109 to 0.

2/27/2019 Approved by the Senate 42 to 0 and enrolled.

3/19/2019 Ratified R17.

3/20/2019 Signed by Governor.

Act No. 10

H. 3789 (Representatives Willis, Allison, Bennett, Elliott, Brown, Erickson, Bradley, Huggins, Forrest, Taylor and R. Williams)

Veterans Designation on Driver's License and Other Driver's License Matters (House Education and Public Works)

This bill outlines who is eligible to apply to have "Veteran" designation on a driver's license and other licensing matters. **(See also S. 199 and H. 3359)**

3/28/2019 House approved 102 to 0. Sent to Senate.

4/2/2019 Introduced in Senate, first reading; referred to Committee on Transportation.

4/24/2019 Transportation Committee report favorable.

5/7/2019 Senate amended and second reading.

5/8/2019 Senate third reading (42 to 0) and returned to House with amendment.

5/9/19 House non-concurred in Senate amendment (115 to 0).

5/9/19 Senate insists upon amendments and conference committee appointed: Grooms, Johnson & Climer.

5/21/19 Conference Committee Report received and adopted by House and Senate.

5/21/19 Enrolled by House.

5/22/19 Ratified R107.

5/24/19 Signed by Governor.

Act No. _____

Military Child Education Coalition Program (House Ways & Means & Senate Finance)

This request is to continue to provide \$350,000 annually on a **recurring basis** to fund the successful Military Child Education Coalition program in public schools, under the purview of the local school districts and the SC Education Oversight Committee, as a part of their oversight role related to military connected students. **H. 4000**, the 2019 – 2020 State Budget, includes \$350,000 **recurring**, in the part of the budget of the SC Military Base Task Force.

BILLS IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Senate and the House have had differing ideas about how to address the issue of facilitating expedited military spouse credentialing. The two versions are as follows:

S. 455 (Senators Alexander and Climer)

Military Service Occupation, Education and Credentialing Act (Senate Labor, Commerce & Industry)

This bill amends Act #45 of 2013 and Article 3 of Chapter 1, Title 40 of the 1976 code, as amended, and as further amended by Act #45 of 2013, relating to LLR licensing to delete "may" and substitute "shall" in the first sentence, second line of Section 40-1-630 and in the first sentence, second line of Section 40-1-640 in order to fully implement supportive licensure requirements for transitioning service members and active duty military spouses, including additional implementing provisions. **(See also H. 3263)**

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

3/5/2019 Approved by the Senate, as amended, 44 to 0.

3/7/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee.

4/30/2019 Committee report favorable with amendment to insert H. 3263 text.

5/2/2019 Approved by House 96 to 0 and returned to Senate with amendment to insert language of H. 3263.

5/8/2019 Senate non-concurred in the House amendments.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REQUIRED:

The Senate and the House have each amended the other chamber's bill (S. 455 and H. 3263) to reflect their preferred version. Since the regular session for 2019 ended with a stalemate between the two bills and the last bill to be acted upon was S. 455, a conference committee of three Senators and three House members will be appointed to attempt to reconcile the difference. Senate conferees are Gambrell, Scott & Davis.

House conferees have not been appointed. Status of conference undetermined, probably will not be considered until January.

SENATE BILLS

S.179 (Senators McElveen, Campbell, Johnson, McLeod, Climer, Shealy, T. R. Young, Davis, Turner and Grooms)

Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act (Senate Finance)

This bill amends Act 272 of 2016 to continue the phase-in of the military retirement exemption through tax year 2020, and then converts to a full military retirement income exemption commencing in tax year 2021. **(See also H. 3135)**

12/12/2018 Senate prefiled. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1/8/2019 Introduced in Senate, first reading; referred to Committee on Finance.

S.180 (Senator McElveen)

Drone Restrictions near Military Bases (Senate Judiciary)

This bill provides that it is unlawful to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle within a certain distance of a federal military installation, and to provide penalties for the violation. Last session a similar bill passed the Senate with a 38 to 0 roll call vote and was sent to the House. The House passed the bill with amendments; the Senate did not concur with the House amendment. A conference committee was not able to reconcile differences and the bill failed to pass. **(See also H. 3776)**

4/9/2019 Approved by Senate 41 to 0.

4/10/2019 Introduced in House, first reading; referred to Judiciary Committee.

S. 320 (Senator Talley)

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

This bill provides for South Carolina to become a member of the Multistate Physician Licensure Compact that would provide for the reciprocal practice of medicine among the states that are parties to the Compact. **(See also H. 3101)**

1/8/2019 Introduced in the Senate, first reading; referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

S. 321 (Senator Alexander)

Advance Enrollment (Senate Education)

This bill provides that residency requirements will be temporarily waived for any child whose parents are relocating as a result of military service into the state if documentation is provided to show a pending military relocation. Proof of residency must be provided within 30 days of the first day of school attendance.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

1/8/2019 Introduced in Senate, first reading; referred to Senate Education Committee.

S. 322 (Senator Alexander)

Expedited Credentialing for School Teachers (Senate Education)

This bill directs the State Board of Education to formulate rules and regulations to administer an expedited credentialing system for military spouses with certification from another state and documentation of a pending military transfer.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

1/8/2019 Introduced in Senate, first reading; referred to Education Committee.

S. 413 (Senator Shealy)

Authority for Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Agents in South Carolina to Enforce State Criminal Laws in the Same Manner by Federal Law Enforcement Officers (Senate Judiciary)

This bill provides that NCIS agents are federal law enforcement officers authorized to enforce the state's criminal laws under certain circumstances by adding NCIS to the list in Section 23-1-212(A) of Federal Law Enforcement Officers.

Note: This is an official NCIS request.

4/9/2019 Approved by Senate 33 to 9.

4/9/2019 Introduced in House, first reading; referred to Judiciary Committee.

S. 660 (Senator Campbell)

Wind Energy Regulation and Siting Act (Senate Judiciary Committee)

This bill amends the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act to establish a procedure and requirements related to permitting, construction, operation or expansion of a proposed wind energy facility in the state or the waters off the coast. These amendments assure that it shall not encroach upon or otherwise have a significant adverse impact on the mission, training or operation of any military installation or branch of the military as determined by the Department of Defense (DoD) Siting Clearinghouse and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

3/14/2019 Introduced in the Senate, first reading; referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HOUSE BILLS

H. 3101 (Representatives G. M. Smith, Hosey, Thayer, Yow, Erickson, Bradley, McCravy, W. Newton, Huggins and W. Cox)

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Medical, Military, Public & Municipal Affairs)

This bill provides for South Carolina to become a member of the Multistate Physicians Licensure Compact that would provide for the reciprocal practice of medicine among the states that are parties to the compact. **(See also S. 320)**

2/28/2019 Approved by the House 105 to 1

2/28/2019 Introduced in the Senate, first reading; referred to Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

H. 3130 (Representatives G. M. Smith, Erickson, Clyburn B. Newton, Yow, and W. Newton)

Pension Increase for Certain Members of the National Guard of South Carolina (House Ways & Means)

This bill provides for increases of retirement pay from the National Guard Retirement System for certain retirees having served at least 20 years creditable service, including National Guard, reserve and active duty.

12/18/2019 House prefiled.

1/8/2019 Introduced, first reading; referred to Ways and Means.

H. 3135 (Representatives G. M. Smith, Erickson, Yow, Funderburk, Huggins, Wheeler, Clemmons, Anderson, and Henderson-Myers)

Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act (House Ways & Means)

This bill amends Act 272 of 2016 to continue the phase-in of the military retirement exemption through tax year 2020, and then converts to a full military retirement income exemption commencing in tax year 2021. **(See also S. 179)**

2/1/2019 Approved by the House 106 to 0.

2/5/2018 Introduced in the Senate, first reading, referred to Committee on Finance.

H. 3136 (Representatives G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, Erickson, Clyburn, B. Newton, V. S. Moss, Yow, W. Newton, Clemmons, Moore, and Gilliard)

Amend Special Needs Tax Credit (Ways & Means)

This bill amends the Special Needs Tax Credit to raise the amount of the fund from \$12M to \$20M and add a further provision to allow the increase of the amount of such credits if needed to accommodate any special needs child of a member of the armed forces killed in the line of duty.

2/1/2019 Approved by the House 106 to 1; Sent to the Senate.

2/5/2019 Introduced in the Senate, first reading; referred to Committee on Finance.

H. 3254 (Representative Hosey, Huggins and Daning)

Married and Widowed Spouses of “Wartime Veterans” Entitled to Free Tuition in State-Supported Post-High School Institution Upon Approval of State Department of Veterans Affairs (House Ways and Means)

This bill extends the right to free state supported post-high school educational institutions beyond the child of a “Wartime Veteran” to also include the spouse or widow if approved by the State Department of Veterans Affairs.

12/18/2018 House prefiled.

1/8/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Ways and Means Committee.

H. 3263 (Representatives G. M. Smith, Yow, Erickson, Bradley, W. Newton, Huggins, Sandifer, Toole, Blackwell, Cogswell, Caskey, Atkinson, Hixon, Taylor, Fry, Weeks and Bales)

Armed Service Members and Spouses Professional and Occupational Licensing Act (House Labor, Commerce & Industry)

This bill exempts armed services members stationed in the state and their spouses from licensure for occupations and professions in certain circumstances. **(See also S. 455)**

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

3/7/2019 Approved by the House, as amended, 101 to 0.

3/7/2019 Introduced in the Senate, first reading; referred to Committee on Banking and Insurance.

4/3/2019 Recalled from Banking and Insurance Committee and committed to Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee.

4/25/2019 Committee report favorable with amendment to substitute S. 455 language into House bill.

5/7/2019 Senate Committee adopted to return S. 455 language to bill and to add a further unrelated amendment.

5/9/2019 Bill remains on Senate contested calendar.

H. 3594 (Representative G. M. Smith)

Military Temporary Remote School Enrollment Act (House Education and Public Works)

This bill allows a temporary waiver of residency requirements for school enrollment to allow military grade school children, with documentation of a pending military relocation to the state, access to preliminary registration, enrollment or application to a school district at the time the process is open to the general student population. Proof of residency requirements are temporarily waived until the student begins school, at which time the student shall be required to provide proof of residency in the district within a specified number of days.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

1/15/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Committee on Education and Public Works)

H. 3776 (Representative Clemmons)

Drone Restrictions Near Military Bases (House Judiciary)

This bill, among other provisions, provides that it is unlawful use of the property of others to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle within a certain distance of a federal military installation, and to provide penalties for the violation. Last session a similar bill passed the Senate with a 38 to 0 roll call vote and was sent to the House. The House passed the bill with amendments; the Senate did not concur with the House amendment. A conference committee was not able to reconcile differences and the bill failed to pass.

1/29/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Judiciary Committee.

H. 4003 (Representatives Huggins and Wooten)

Military Priority Registration Act (House Education and Public Works)

This bill provides priority course enrollment for military related students in public institutions of higher learning. In 2018 an identical bill (H. 4078 of 2018) passed the House 107 to 2 but was not considered further.

2/19/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

H. 4404 (Representatives Stringer, Herbkersman, W. Newton, Yow, Huggins, Ballentine, Erickson, B. Cox, Elliott, Allison, Forrest & G. M. Smith)

Veterans Nursing Degree Opportunity Act

This bill authorizes the development and implementation of Veterans Associate of Science in Nursing Degrees programs and Veteran Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree programs to enable military veterans with relevant military training and experience to expedite the transition from military life to a professional career in nursing.

4/4/2019 Introduced in the House, first reading; referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

5/1/2019 Amended by subcommittee and given favorable report.

5/1/2019 Amended by House.

NEW BILL NEEDED

Sustaining In-State Tuition Until Enrollment (House Education and Public Works & Senate Education)

This bill makes revisions relating to in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education. The bill allows a spouse or child of an active member of the armed forces who is assigned to duty out-of-state, and the spouse or child has received a letter of acceptance prior to the change of duty station, to be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees as long as the spouse or child remains continuously enrolled in the institution of higher education.

Note: This is a 2019 DoD Initiative.

NEW MATTER

Three New Veterans Homes

This request is to provide state matching funds for three new federally approved and badly needed veterans nursing homes for the Central Region, Northeast Region and Northwest Region, estimated to be in the amount of \$37 Million.

Note: Recommendation of SC Veterans Policy Advisory Committee and SC Military Base Task Force