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VFWCO Support

- Yes SB21-015 -- **Veterans Service Organization Stipend for Funeral Services**
The bill requires the department of military and veterans affairs to pay, subject to available money, a stipend of up to \$75 to a veterans service organization for each time the organization performs a basic military funeral honors ceremony or other funeral-related services for an honorably discharged veteran
FISCAL NOTE: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$30,930 to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
Feb 23, 2021. On a 5-0 vote Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Unamended to Appropriations
April 1, 2021. To be heard in Appropriations
- Yes SB21-021 -- **Audiology and Speech-language Interstate Compact**
Concerning the enactment of the "Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Interstate Compact", and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation
March 12, 2021. Senate Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments – Committee
March 16, 2021. Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments
March 13, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
- Yes SB21-024 -- **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**
Concerning recognition of the thirtieth day of March as a commemorative state holiday, and, in connection therewith, designating the thirtieth day of March as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
Feb 23, 2021. On a 5-0 vote Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Unamended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole
March 1, 2021. SB21-024 had passed the Senate on an unanimous floor vote
March 3, 2021. Introduced in House and assigned to State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs. This bill is scheduled for a hearing on **March 18, 2021**
March 22, 2021. Will be presented to House floor
March 24, 2021. House Third Reading Passed.
March 29, 2021. Signed by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate
March 30, 2021. Signed by the Governor

- Yes SB21-026 -- **Restoration of Honor Act**
Concerning the eligibility of discharged LGBT veterans for specified state benefits
Feb 22, 2021. On a 35-0 vote Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments. Introduced to the House on the same day Assigned to the House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
March 22, 2021. Refer Amended to House
March 26, 2021. House Second Reading Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor (with three amendments)
March 29, 2021. Bill passed the House, awaiting House and Senate signatures
- SB21-032 -- **Mobile Veterans-support Unit Grant Program**
The bill establishes a mobile veterans-support unit grant program (grant program) to provide grant funding to a veteran-owned-and-focused organization to create a mobile veterans-support unit
FISCAL NOTE: The bill requires an appropriation of \$229,070 to the Office of Economic Development and International Trade.
Feb 16, 2021. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. This bill is scheduled for a hearing on **March 16, 2021**
March 16, 2021. Bill passed unanimously 5-0 and assigned to Appropriations
- SB21-129 -- **Veteran Suicide Prevention Pilot Program**
The bill requires the state department of human services (department) to establish a veteran suicide prevention pilot program (pilot program) to reduce the suicide rate and suicidal ideation among veterans by providing no-cost, stigma-free, confidential, and effective behavioral health treatment for post-9/11 veterans and their families
FISCAL NOTE: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$1,681,600 to the Department of Human Services; FY22-23 appropriation \$2,963,200.
VFWCO Notes:
There seems to be a nonprofit in mind who will be assigned the project in El Paso County, but it is not WWP, would want to see where the funds will flow to prior to offering support
February 25, 2021. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
March 18, 2021. Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Amended to Appropriations

- No SB21-133 -- **Donated Alcohol Beverages For Special Events**
Concerning alcohol beverages donated for the purpose of a special event held at a club licensed to sell alcohol beverages by the drink to club members for consumption on the club premises.
VFWCO Notes:
#1 Taxation of the products. With our alcohol licenses we only pay tax on the product when it is sold by us. However, the donator had already paid sales tax on the same product and we would have to pay the sales tax again upon sale
#2 The product donated is not regulated. We buy alcohol directly distributors which guarantee the product is ready for consumption
Feb 26, 2021. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology
March 24, 2021. Bill passed based the testimony of the Lakewood Elks Lodge
March 29, 2021. Bill on the Senate floor, passed second reading
March 30, 2021. Passed third reading
March 31, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor
- Yes SB21-138 -- **Improve Brain Injury Support in Criminal Justice System**
Concerning measures to improve the support of persons in the criminal justice system with a brain injury
FISCAL NOTE: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$125,692 to the Department of Corrections.
March 1, 2021. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Judiciary
March 24, 2021. Senate Committee on Judiciary Refer Amended to Appropriations (one amendment)
- Yes SB21-145 -- **Extending Expiring Tax Check-offs**
Concerning the extension of the period of time that voluntary contributions that are set to expire in 2021 will appear on the state individual tax return form
March 12, 2021. Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments
March 17, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance
April 1, 2021. House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to House Committee of the Whole
- Yes SB21-154 -- **988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network**
Concerning the implementation of the 988 national suicide prevention lifeline network in Colorado
March 1, 2021. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health & Human Services
- Yes HB21-1016 -- **Transfer Jurisdiction to Veteran's Specialty Court**
Concerning the authority to transfer jurisdiction of a veteran defendant's case to a jurisdiction with a veteran's speciality (*sic*) court
Feb 16, 2021. Bill assigned to Judiciary who heard the bill **March 16** for discussion only

April 6, 2021. Scheduled to be heard in House Committee on Judiciary Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

Yes

HB21-1065 -- **Veterans' Hiring Preference**

The bill creates a statutory basis to allow a private employer to give preference to a veteran of the armed forces or the National Guard and the spouse of a disabled veteran or a service member killed in the line of duty when hiring a new employee, as long as the veteran or the spouse is as qualified as other applicants for employment

Feb 16, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

March 16, 2021. Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Amended to Appropriations

No

HB21-1079 -- **Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities**

VFWCO agrees with the larger premise of HB21-1079 but believes that the qualification for the property tax exemption should not be "permanent disability." We suggest striking and remove the five references to the term "permanent." The Dept. of Veterans Affairs very rarely issues permanent disability to veterans less than 100% service-connected disabled. Retaining "permanent" disqualifies thousands of veterans who could benefit from the bill. VFWCO offers our professional expert on Veteran Affairs Benefits for in-person testimony when the bill opens in committee

FISCAL NOTE: General Fund Expenditures Budget Year FY 2021-22 - \$2.2 million; Out Year FY 2022-23 Revenue - \$2.5 million.

March 4, 2021. On a vote of 9-0 the bill was *postponed indefinitely* at the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs. Rep. Sandridge the bill and HCR sponsor said that he'll reintroduce the bill next year but with the input of stakeholders, meaning us.

Yes

HB21-1110 -- **Colorado Laws for Persons with Disabilities**

The bill adds language to strengthen current Colorado law related to protections against discrimination on the basis of disability for persons with disabilities

FISCAL NOTE: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$312,922 to the Office of Information Technology. For FY 2022-2023, \$331,249

Feb 16, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary who will hear the bill **March 14**

March 24, 2021. House Committee on Judiciary Refer Amended to Appropriations

- Yes **HB21-1113 -- Income Tax Deduction for Mil Retirement Benefits**
Concerning the income tax deduction for military retirement benefits
FISCAL NOTE: Revenue General Fund reductions - Out Year FY 2022-23 (\$650,000); Out Year FY 2023-24 (\$3,650,000); Out Year FY 2024-25 (\$6,000,000)
Feb 16, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs who will hear the bill March 11
March 11, 2021. Bill heard for witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
March 18, 2021. House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs *Postpone Indefinitely*
- Yes **HB21-1116 -- Purple Heart Recipient Free State Park Access**
The bill allows Colorado residents who display a purple heart special license plate free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not including campgrounds, on any day of the year that such park or area is open
FISCAL NOTE: Budget Year FY 2021-22 (up to \$31,940); Out Year FY 2022-23 (up to \$38,328)
Feb 26, 2021. On a vote of 11-0 the bill moves from the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs to the House Committee on Finance
Mar 4, 2021. On a vote of 11-0 the bill moves from the House Committee on Finance to the Committee on Appropriations
April 5, 2021. Committee on Appropriations at 9.30am
- Yes **HB21-1217 -- Military Family Open Enrollment in Public Schools**
The bill adds language to strengthen current Colorado law related to protections against discrimination on the basis of disability for persons with disabilities
March 3, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Education
April 8, 2021. Bill to be heard
- **HB21-1144 -- Bingo-Raffle Licenses and New Equipment**
Concerning the conduct of charitable gaming activity, and, in connection therewith, requiring additional disclosures from license applicants and modernizing the "Bingo and Raffles Law" to accommodate the use of improved electronic aids and devices in the conduct of games of chance
VFWCO Note:
There appears to be only one manufacture of this equipment who needs this bill to change gambling statutes in order to proceed. Not sure if this can or will harm VSOs
March 3, 2021. Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor
March 24, 2021. House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
Postpone Indefinitely