

Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
2023 Legislative Summary



Pilar Schiavo, Chair  
Laurie Davies, Vice-Chair

## **Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs**

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Cover Photo – Workers finishing a corner of the roof of the new Skilled Nursing and Memory Care Facility being built at the Yountville Veterans Home, a \$269 million, 240-bed project that began construction in 2022 and is scheduled to be completed this year.

# Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs

## 2023 Legislative Summary

### **BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR AND ENACTED RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **ASSEMBLY BILLS**

**AB 322 (Mathis) Chapter 801, Statutes of 2023**

*Veterans and California National Guard Supplement Orientation Act of 2023.*

Requires that each campus of the California State University and the California Community Colleges include in transfer and first-year student orientation specified information to benefit veteran students and their dependents, to develop and make available informational materials for those students, and requests the same of each campus of the University of California.

**AB 531 (Irwin) Chapter 789, Statutes of 2023**

*The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023.*

Creates the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024 to, subject to voter approval, authorize \$6.380 billion in general obligation bonds to finance permanent supportive housing for veterans and others, as well as, unlocked and locked behavioral health treatment and residential settings for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with severe behavioral health challenges. Allows for by right streamlined, ministerial review for capital projects funded by the bond.

**AB 569 (Garcia) Chapter 117, Statutes of 2023**

*California State University: cybersecurity regional alliances and multistakeholder partnerships pilot programs.*

Requires the CSU Chancellor's office to submit a comprehensive report on the Cybersecurity Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships Pilot Program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2028, and requires that the report include specified enrollment data, including participation by veterans, and recommendations for how to improve the pilot program and increase veteran participation.

**AB 1350 (Soria) Chapter 684, Statutes of 2023**

*Veterans: memorials.*

Creates the Capitol Park Veterans Memorial Fund (Fund), for the purpose of the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing memorials in the State Capitol to veterans of the United States Armed Forces, and for receipt of private donations for that purpose.

**AB 1386 (Gabriel) Chapter 760, Statutes of 2023**

*Veterans housing: tenant referrals.*

Authorizes entities referring veterans to deeply affordable housing units funded by the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) or tax credits and private activity bonds to refer veterans at higher income levels if units are unable to be filled at a lower income threshold for specified time periods.

**AB 1462 (Jim Patterson)****Chapter 844, Statutes of 2023***Veteran overdose deaths.*

Requires the California Department of Public Health (DPH) to access existing data within the electronic death registration system to compile a report on veteran drug overdose deaths in California and to report specified data.

**AB 1566 (Soria)****Chapter 694, Statutes of 2023***Department of veterans affairs: veterans' services.*

Requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to add to their annual report of the activities of County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) - the composition of staff at the county office and the annual funding of the county veterans service office by the county, and authorizes CalVet to require CVSOs to apply uniform measurement of workload units, claims, and other information.

**SENATE BILLS****SB 82 (Seyarto)****Chapter 773, Statutes of 2023***Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: eligibility letters.*

Requires a county assessor to accept an electronically-generated letter of service-connected disability in lieu of an original letter of service-connected disability, at the discretion of the claimant, when verifying eligibility for the disabled veterans' exemption.

**SB 228 (Roth)****Chapter 703, Statutes of 2023***Civilian youth opportunities program.*

Adds "western Riverside County" to the list of regions where at-risk students must be served by the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program established by the Adjutant General under existing authority.

**SJR 4 (Ochoa Bogh)****Chapter 117, Statutes of 2023***Veteran health care.*

Urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to locate satellite Veterans Health Administration medical clinics on or near state veterans home campuses and further urges the United States Congress to provide federal funding for the operation of such satellite clinics.

**BILLS IN LEGISLATURE:**

The following bills, if enacted, would do the following:

**ASSEMBLY BILLS****AB 444 (Addis)***California Defense Community Infrastructure Program.*

Would require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), upon appropriation of funds by the Legislature, to develop and implement the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (CDCIP) to provide grants and technical assistance to local agencies for matching funds and other costs related to community improvements supportive of a military institution.

*In Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Held on suspense.*

**AB 684 (Ta)***County veterans service officers: additional resources.*

Upon appropriation by the Legislature, would provide a stipend to each county with an active United States (U.S.) military base for the purposes of maintaining a county veterans service officer (CVSO), at least part time, on each

base in the county, and prohibits a county from receiving the stipend if the county chooses not to maintain a CVSO on a military base or if the base does not approve of a CVSO being maintained at the base.

*In Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Held on suspense.*

**AB 718 (Ta)**

*Veterans: mental health.*

Would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish a program to fund an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California, and to submit a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2025.

*On Senate third reading, ordered to inactive file.*

**AB 1014 (Schiavo)**

*Property taxation: exemption: principal residence: disabled veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses.*

Would allow an eligible homeowner to combine the disabled veteran's property tax exemption with any other real property exemption to which the homeowner may be entitled, including the regular veteran's exemptions.

*Referred to Assembly Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs.*

**AB 1234 (Davies)**

*Veteran home use: Reporting.*

This bill would require the department to continue to make reports on the best continued, unrestricted use of each Veterans Home available on the department's internet website in an accessible and searchable format.

*Referred to Assembly Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs.*

**AB 1647 (Soria)**

*Veterans treatment courts: grant program.*

Establishes a grant program, upon appropriation, to be administered by the Judicial Council to establish and support veterans' treatment courts (VTCs) and support veterans in the criminal legal system in counties without VTCs.

*Referred to Senate Committee on Public Safety.*

**AB 1665 (Soria)**

*Veterans' homes.*

This bill specifies that the spouse or domestic partner of a veteran resident of a state veterans' home need not be discharged in the event of divorce and separation.

*On Senate third reading, ordered to inactive file.*

**SENATE BILLS**

**SB 73 (Seyarto)**

*Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference*

This bill enacts the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act and authorizes a private employer to establish a veterans' preference employment policy.

*Referred to Assembly Committee on Judiciary.*

**SB 726 (Archuleta)**

*Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners.*

This bill increases the disabled veterans' exemption from property taxation to \$863,790, and indexes the increased amount for inflation, for lien dates between January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2034.

*Referred to Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation.*

**SB 783 (Archuleta)**

*Veterans: suicide.*

This bill authorizes the Counties of Los Angeles and Nevada to create a veteran suicide prevention training pilot program.

*Referred to Assembly Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs.*