

Current status of Veteran Bills/Resolutions introduced in the RI General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session

As of 28 December 2020 the RI General Assembly has introduced 2,134 bills/resolutions. Of these 43 effect veterans. Below is a summary and the status of the 43 veterans' bills/resolutions. Only 2 veterans' bills passed the 2020 RI General Assembly session, S-2344 & H-7239 Sub A. These are companion bills.

Senate Bill No. 2051

BY de la Cruz, Algieri, Felag, Ciccone, Seveney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - VETERANS' HOME IN HOUSE OCCUPATION THERAPY (Requires the general assembly to appropriate necessary funds for the furnishing of in-house occupational therapy services for all residents of the Bristol Veterans' home.)

01/21/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. 2053

BY Felag, Seveney, Picard ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Amends the definition of "disabled", for the purposes of property tax relief, to include veterans who earn less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) annually and who receive disability benefits.)

01/21/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. 2055

BY Seveney, Picard, DiPalma, Coyne, Conley ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION (Amends the definition of the term "disabled," for purposes of tax relief, to include persons receiving veterans' affairs disability benefits paid by the federal government.)

01/21/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. 2094

BY Lombardi, Lynch Prata, Archambault, Ciccone, Algieri ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - BURIAL OF VETERANS (Allows a veteran who qualifies to be buried at the Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery to designate a domestic partner to be buried with them.)

01/21/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

02/26/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

Senate Bill No. 2118

BY Felag, Seveney, Lombardo, DiPalma, Ciccone ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX - MILITARY RETIREMENT (Excludes for the purposes of Rhode Island state income taxes, the first \$25,000 of eligible military retirement income, paid by the state or federal government to persons 60 years or older received in the 2021 tax year, and thereafter.)

01/22/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. 2120

BY Felag, Seveney, Lombardo, Ciccone, Lombardi ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Provides a fifteen thousand dollar (\$15,000) deduction of federal taxable retirement income from federal AGI in order to calculate the income of a Rhode Island resident.)

01/22/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. [2197](#)

BY Felag, Ciccone, Lombardi, McCaffrey, Seveney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Increases the exemption for retirement income from state income tax from \$15,000 to \$20,000 commencing in 2020.) 02/04/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. [2198](#)

BY Pearson, Seveney, DiPalma, Paolino, Picard ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Creates an exemption for taxable retirement income from certain pension plans or annuities of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) beginning on or after January 1, 2021.)

02/04/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. [2217](#)

BY Lynch Prata, Miller, Felag, Lombardi ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION (Provides that the taxation of military service pensions for purposes of the Rhode Island personal income tax would be reduced and phased out over a five (5) year period from 2020 to 2024.)

02/04/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. [2251](#)

BY Felag, Lynch Prata, Seveney, Raptakis, Ciccone ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Creates a special motor vehicle registration plate for recipients of the United States Bronze Star Medal.)

02/04/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

02/12/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

Senate Bill No. [2278](#)

BY Raptakis, Felag, McKenney, Paolino, Algieri ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Allows business vehicles which are owned by an entity which a veteran owns, and registered and authorized to conduct business in the state of Rhode Island, to register such business vehicles with veteran plates.)

02/04/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

03/11/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

Senate Bill No. [2342](#)

BY Sheehan, Felag, Gallo, McKenney, Lawson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Expands the classes of licensed vehicles eligible to obtain courtesy veterans' plates.)

02/13/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

03/11/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

Senate Bill No. [2344](#)

as amended BY Sosnowski, Algieri, Lynch Prata, Sheehan, McCaffrey ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING NEW BUILDINGS (Names Route 4 and Route 1 from Warwick to Westerly The Purple Heart Memorial Highway.)

02/13/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

02/26/2020 Committee recommends passage

03/04/2020 Senate passed as amended (floor amendment)

03/05/2020 Referred to House Special Legislation

06/17/2020 House passed as amended in concurrence

06/24/2020 Signed by Governor

Senate Bill No. [2641](#)

BY McKenney, Sheehan, Rogers, Paolino ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (This act would phase-out the taxation of pensions and annuities over a five (5) year period beginning on January 1, 2021.)

02/27/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill No. [2714](#)

BY McKenney, Seveney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT COMMISSION (Creates the Rhode Island military and veterans affairs oversight commission to oversee all operations of the Rhode Island office of veterans' affairs.)

02/27/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

Senate Resolution No. [2879](#)

BY Morgan, Paolino, Rogers, de la Cruz, Algieri ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" IN RHODE ISLAND ON MARCH 25, 2020

06/18/2020 Senate read and passed

Senate Bill No. [2929](#)

BY Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS (Department of health to promulgate rules and regulations for essential caregivers at nursing homes during a declared emergency.)

10/30/2020 Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services

House Bill No. [7105](#)

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Casimiro, Solomon, Almeida, Azzinaro ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA CONFIDENTIALITY ACT (Provides confidentiality protection to military sexual trauma (MST) victims.)

01/15/2020 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

01/28/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. [7114](#)

BY Azzinaro, Fellela, Vella-Wilkinson, Casimiro, Tobon ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Changes the service requirement for admissions to RI Veterans' Home from 90 days to 2 years, and gives priority to veterans defined as war veterans.)

01/15/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

02/27/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. [7175](#)

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Casimiro, Azzinaro, Corvese, Serpa ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE (Creates a 9 member military and veterans' affairs oversight commission.)

01/16/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

02/27/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7239

SUB A BY McEntee, Caldwell, Azzinaro, Casimiro, Fogarty ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY - PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS (Names Route 4 and Route 1 from Warwick to Westerly The Purple Heart Memorial Highway.)

01/22/2020 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

03/05/2020 Committee recommends passage of Sub A

06/17/2020 House passed Sub A

06/18/2020 Senate passed Sub A in concurrence

06/24/2020 Signed by Governor

House Bill No. 7283

BY Casimiro, Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Alzate, Fellela ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Expands the classes of licensed vehicles eligible to obtain courtesy veterans' plates.)

01/23/2020 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

02/06/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7334

BY Place, Quattrocchi, Nardone, Azzinaro, Newberry ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSURE (Provides issuance of occupational licenses for military members and spouses stationed in Rhode Island.)

01/29/2020 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

02/25/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7403

BY Place, Azzinaro, Abney, Nardone, Lyle ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- ACTIVE MEMBERS IN RESERVES-- EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS (Expands educational benefits to active reservists in the armed forces.)

01/31/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7405

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Azzinaro, McNamara, Price, McLaughlin ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Establishes "chaplain's fund" to collect donations for use in activities to enhance morale/welfare/recreation of veterans' home residents maintained and operated by the advisory council of veterans' affairs.)

01/31/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7410

BY Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Jackson, McLaughlin, Price ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Creates a special motor vehicle registration plate for recipients of the United States Bronze Star Medal.)

01/31/2020 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

02/13/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7416

BY Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Jackson, McLaughlin, Price ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Amends the definition of "disabled", for the purposes of property tax relief, to include veterans who earn less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) annually and who receive disability benefits.) 01/31/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs
02/14/2020 Committee transferred to House Municipal Government
02/27/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7614

BY Casey, Knight, Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Defines as "disabled," persons receiving veterans' affairs disability benefits paid by the federal government for purposes of property tax relief.)
02/14/2020 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government
02/27/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7626

BY Casey, Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Creates a tax deduction for military retirement benefits of a veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse.)
02/14/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7642

BY McLaughlin, Vella-Wilkinson, Abney, Corvese, Jackson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Provides immediate family members or two (2) guests of residents of the Rhode Island veterans' home access to the dining room for lunch and/or dinner at no charge to the resident, family members or guests.)
02/14/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs
02/27/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7697

BY Quattrocchi, Roberts, Place, Price, McLaughlin ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Reorganizes the Rhode Island Veterans' Home into a quasi-public corporation of state operated by an eleven member board of directors.)
02/26/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7703

BY Tobon, Barros, Alzate, Slater, Blazejewski ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE LOTTERY (Creates an instant ticket scratch off game pilot program to raise funds for Rhode Island veterans and dependents of qualified service members. Expires on December 31, 2021.)
02/26/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7893

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Hull, Casimiro, McLaughlin ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING (Enables military service members and their spouses and those individuals certified or licensed in another state to obtain certifications and

licenses issued by the department of labor and training subject to certain conditions.)

02/26/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

03/12/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7958

BY Azzinaro, Tobon, Solomon, McLaughlin, Jackson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- MEDAL OF HONOR DAY (Designates March 25th as Medal of Honor Day.)

03/04/2020 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

03/12/2020 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. 7980

BY McLaughlin, Hull, Lombardi, McNamara, Jackson ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION (Provides a full tax exemption for any real property that is owned by or held in trust for the benefit of disabled veterans of the United States Armed Services if that property serves as the "disabled veteran's" primary residence.)

03/06/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8046

BY Jackson, Vella-Wilkinson, Serodio, Noret, Phillips ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- CIVIL AIR PATROL (Authorizes state aide to RICAP for training/equipment for use during times of natural disaster/emergency as needed by state EMA/governor.)

06/18/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8047

BY Diaz, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PAY CERTAIN VIETNAM BONUSES (Appropriates the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, for payment of the Vietnam bonus of Jeffrey W. Dress of Marlboro, Massachusetts.)

06/18/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8131

BY Nardone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS (Entitles all residents of health care and assisted living facilities, nursing homes, group homes and veterans' homes, to designate a person to provide them with companionship, personal health care guidance and advocacy.

09/21/2020 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

House Bill No. 8136

BY Williams

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- HOLIDAYS (Eliminates the state holiday of Victory Day and

insert in place thereof the state holiday of Emancipation Day to be held on August 1.)

09/24/2020 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 8146

BY Place

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- NURSING HOME STAFFING AND QUALITY CARE ACT (Mandates minimum staffing levels and standards for quality care for state facilities and their residents with violations subject to monetary penalties, and provides wage increases for all nursing homes subject to the rate of inflation.)

11/24/2020 Introduced, referred to House Finance

V/R,

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