

2002

## Legislative Summary - 2002

Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee

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# ASSEMBLY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## 2002 Legislative Summary



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Fall 2002

Dear Interested Party,

It was with great privilege, pleasure and pride that I was able to serve as Chairman in 2002 for the Assembly Veterans Committee. I would like to sincerely thank Speaker Herb Wesson for not only appointing me as Chairman to the Committee but primarily for bringing the Committee back as a full standing Committee.

The issues before the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee this year were very challenging and diverse in issue. I am proud to say that, along with the help of my colleagues on the committee, we were able to address several issues ranging from veteran health care benefits to passing one of the most historic package of bills to the House which will now allow for the construction of five new desperately needed veterans homes in our state.

The veterans issues in this state need to be at the forefront of discussions in the Capitol. Our veterans are growing older by the day and need essential services now. I challenge every future member of this committee to rise to the challenge of taking care of the veterans in this state.

Again, it was with great privilege that I was able to serve in this capacity as a Chairman. As a veteran, I was humbled by the experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Dickerson".

DICK DICKERSON

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**ASSEMBLY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Richard "Dick" Dickerson, Chair**

*2002 Legislative Summary*

In the 2001-2002 legislative session, the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, under the guidance of its Chair, Assemblymember Dick Dickerson, responded to the needs of the state's Veterans by advancing legislation to create five new veterans' homes throughout the state, including a much needed facility in West Los Angeles. Through regular and informational hearings, the committee continued its bipartisan commitment to ensure accountability and quality of care for all veterans residing in California's veterans' homes.

In the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, the men and women of California's military reserve and National Guard continue to be called up to serve in a wide variety of ways to guarantee the security of the state's residents at home and abroad. In recognition of the unique service provided by these individuals, the committee moved to extend benefits and services, where appropriate, to help ease the burden of, what is for many, an extended call to duty.

The pages following provide a list of bills referred to the committee for action during the 2001-2002 session.

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1. AB 1799 (Chavez)-This bill would have amended the Military and Veterans Code to provide that special interest license plate fees deposited in the Veterans Service Office Fund (VSO Fund) be administered, upon appropriation by the Legislature, by the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO).

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: Set first hearing. Canceled at request of Author.

2. AB 1850 (Nakano)- Allows reservists of the National Guard called up to active duty for 30 days or more in service to the state to be eligible for health care benefits that cover dependents.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. 417.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 11-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 22-0  
Asm. Floor: 76-0

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 12-0  
Sen. Floor: 39-0

3. AB 1862 (Wyman)- This bill would have extended the compensation for salary losses for California's reservists and encouraged private employers to reimburse employee/reservists for losses by offering tax incentives.

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 11-0  
Asm Revenue & Taxation:  
Held in Committee

4. AB 2089 (Aanestad)- This bill would have declared the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$12 million for the construction of a veterans' home in Shasta County.

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: Set first hearing. Canceled at request of Author.

5. AB 2090 (Aanestad)-This bill would have enacted the Veterans' Home Act of 2002 to fund construction and renovation of veterans' homes as described in existing law. The Act would have been submitted for approval of the voters on November 5, 2002.

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: Set first hearing. Cancelled at request of Author.

6. AB 2176 (Hollingsworth)- This bill would have required school districts to adopt a policy in which access to pupils for recruitment purposes would not be denied or unreasonably limited and would have authorized the imposition of a civil monetary penalty on schools or school districts that did not comply.

STATUS: Died in Assembly Appropriations.

Legislative History

Asm. Education: 9-1  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 6-1  
Asm. Appropriations: 8-0  
(FAIL)



7. AB 2428 (Correa)- Allows eligibility for Cal-Vet benefits to be extended to members of the California National Guard and federal reserve during the period of time they are available for call up to active military duty.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. 419.

Legislative History
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 11-0
Asm. Appropriations: 22-0
Asm. Floor: 72-0
Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0
Sen. Appropriations: 28.8
Sen. Floor: 39-0

8. AB 2508 (Dickerson)-This bill recognizes the existing Remembrance Memorial for California Korean War Veterans located in the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery near Santa Nella as the official state memorial for veterans of the Korean War.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. # 106.

Legislative History
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0
Asm. Floor: 75-0
Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0
Sen. Floor: 36-0

9. AB 2559 (Wesson)- This is an urgency bill that continuously appropriates moneys from the Veterans' Home Fund (Fund) for the State's matching fund requirement for the construction of three new veterans' homes in the Cities of Lancaster, Saticoy, and West Los Angeles. This bill is linked through contingency language to SB 1234 (Johannessen), SB 1773 (Chesbro), and AB 2953 (Wiggins).

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #216.

Legislative History
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 11-0
Asm. Appropriations: 24-0
Asm. Floor: 79-0
Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0
Sen. Floor: 30-0

10. AB 2649 (Wyland)- This bill would have required that temporary military leave of absence from the workforce be extended, from the current 17 days, to 30 days for all members of the reserves, National Guard, and Naval Militia.

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: Set first hearing. Cancelled at request of author.

11. AB 2953 (Wiggins)- This is an urgency bill that continuously appropriates to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) \$15 million from the Veterans' Home Fund for renovating the California Veterans' Home, Yountville. This bill is linked through contingency language to AB 2559 (Wesson), SB 1773 (Chesbro), and SB 1234 (Johannessen).

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #218.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 11-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 22-0  
Asm. Floor: 78-0

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Floor: 30-0

12. AJR 26 (Havice)- This resolution sends a statement to the President and Congress asking them to take action to prevent military reservists from being discriminated against, as a result of their reserve status, when applying for loans.

STATUS: Chaptered, Resolution Chpt. #96.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0  
Asm. Floor: 76-0

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Floor: 36-0



13. AJR 34 (Hollingsworth)- This resolution requests Congress to provide funds to support ending the penalty imposed against disabled military retirees for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability compensation. Specifically, this bill urges the President and Congress to fund the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2002 in order to eliminate the penalty imposed against disabled military retirees for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability compensation.

STATUS: Chaptered, Resolution Chpt. # 97.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0

Asm. Floor: 76-0

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Floor: 36-0

14. AJR 50 (Dickerson)- This measure requests the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to establish a federal/state partnership to use local county veterans service officers to assist the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in eliminating the veterans claims processing backlog.

STATUS: Chaptered, Resolution Chpt. # 150.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 6-0

Asm. Floor: 77-0

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Floor: 35-0

15. HR 32 (Havice)- This resolution urges that proper respect be shown to the U.S. flag and that all residents of California honor our nation's flag by flying it in a dignified manner from their home or business.

STATUS: Adopted.

Legislative History

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0

Asm. Floor: 76-0

16. HR 46 (Firebaugh)- This resolution recognizes and honors the contributions of all the members of the California National Guard.

STATUS: Adopted.

Legislative History  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0

17. SB 569 (Morrow)- This bill would have corrected an inadvertent omission created by SB 1950 (Lewis), Chapter 928, Statutes of 2000, that was intended to provide state employees who are on inactive military duty with paid leave.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History  
Sen. P.E. & R.: 3-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 8-0  
Sen. Floor: 40-0  
  
Asm. P.E. ,R. & S.S.: 7-0  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: Held in  
Committee under submission.

18. SB 589 (Perata)- This bill would have required increased reporting requirements for certain Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs) and increased penalties for non-compliance with reporting or misuse of DVBE status.

STATUS: Held in committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadlines.

Legislative History  
Sen. Governmental  
Organization: 12-0  
Sen. Floor: 39-0  
  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: Held in  
Committee.

19. SB 844 (Chesbro)- Adds an urgency appropriation of \$5.8 million General Fund to the reimbursements that fund the renovation of the Lincoln Theater at the California Veterans Home in Yountville.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #362

Legislative History

Sen. Education: Vote Not Relevant  
Sen. Appropriations: Vote not Relevant  
Sen. Floor: Vote Not Relevant

Asm. Education: Vote Not Relevant  
Asm. Higher Education: Vote Note Relevant.  
Asm. Appropriations: Vote Not Relevant  
Asm. Floor: Vote Not Relevant.  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 23-0  
Asm. Floor: 78-0

20. SB 1033 (Knight)- This bill would have created an additional three percent bid preference for certified small businesses that also are certified as disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBES).

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadline.

Legislative History

Sen. Governmental Organization: 11-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 9-0  
Sen. Floor: 39-0

Asm. Business & Professions: 8-0  
Asm. Veterans Affairs: 6-0  
Asm. Appropriations: Held in Committee under submission.

21. SB 1234 (Johannessen)- This is an urgency bill that authorizes the State Public Works Board to issue lease-revenue bonds up to \$62 million to finance the acquisition, design, construction, renovation, or expansion of veterans' homes at Yountville, Barstow, Chula Vista, Lancaster, Saticoy, and West Los Angeles, and in Fresno County and Shasta County. This bill allows for the continuous appropriation of these funds for the stated purposes and is linked through contingency language to AB 2559 (Wesson), AB 2953 (Wiggins), and SB 1773 (Chesbro).

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #217.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 13-0  
Sen. Floor: 39-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 19-0  
Asm. Floor: 60-0

22. SB 1251 (Johannessen)- This bill corrects and updates various obsolete references and makes several technical changes to the Military and Veterans Code regarding Cal-Vet home loans.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #465.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 28-8  
Sen. Floor: 37-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 23-0  
Asm. Floor: 78-0

23. SB 1281 (Haynes)- This measure requires veterans home administrators to provide complete accounting information on the cost of care rendered to residents of the home.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #466.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 28.8  
Sen. Floor: 35-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 23-0  
Asm. Floor: 78-0

24. SB 1309 (Johannessen)- This urgency bill would have increased the required reserve insurance companies must carry that provide life or disability insurance for Cal-Vet Farm and Home Loan participants from twenty percent to twenty-five percent.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee, died pursuant to Legislative deadline.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 28.8  
Sen. Floor: 38-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Insurance: 19-0  
Asm. Appropriations: Held in committee.

25. SB 1455 (Johannessen)- This is an urgency bill that increases the state imposed maximum on federal grant money from \$6 million to \$7 million for the new State Veterans Cemetery in Shasta County.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #502.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Appropriations: 8-0

Sen. Floor: 39-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0

Asm. Appropriations: 23-0

Asm. Floor 78-0

26. SB 1457 (McPherson)- This was an urgency bill that required the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to take the necessary steps to establish a cemetery at the former Fort Ord in Monterey County.

STATUS: This bill was significantly amended in the last days of the session and became a law enforcement funding bill.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Appropriations: 13-0

Sen. Floor: 38-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0

Asm. Appropriations: Vote Not Relevant.

Asm. Floor: Vote Not Relevant.

27. SB 1470 (Johannessen)- This is an urgency bill that requires the Adjutant General to establish a State Military Museum and resource center, and limits state funding to \$100,000 annually.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #469.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Appropriations: 7-0

Sen. Floor: 38-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0

Asm. Appropriations: 22-0

Asm. Floor: 74-0

28. SB 1551 (Battin)- This bill would have transferred \$1 million from the General Fund to the Armory Fund for the maintenance of certain National Guard armories used as emergency shelters.

STATUS: Vetoed by the Governor.

Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0

Sen. Appropriations: 11-0

Sen. Floor: 39-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 6-1

Asm. Appropriations: 15-0

Asm. Floor: 77-0



29. SB 1773 (Chesbro)-This is an urgency bill that continuously appropriates \$15 million from the Veterans Home Fund (Fund) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) for the renovation of the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. This is an urgency bill that allows for the continuous appropriation of these funds for the stated purposes. This bill is linked through contingency language to AB 2559 (Wesson), AB 2953 (Wiggins), and SB 1773 (Chesbro).

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #219.

#### Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 28-8  
Sen. Floor: 38-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 19-0  
Asm. Floor: 61-0

30. SB 1893 (Johannessen)- This measure allows for an increase in the California Veterans Farm and Home Purchase Act (Cal-Vet) loan limit for a single-family home and a reduction in mortgage rates for qualifying veterans.

STATUS: Signed by the Governor, Chpt. #473.

#### Legislative History

Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0  
Sen. H. & C. D.: 6-0  
Sen. Appropriations: 10-0  
Sen. Floor: 39-0

Asm. Veterans Affairs: 6-0  
Asm. H. & C. D.: 9-0  
Asm. Appropriations: 23-0  
Asm. Floor: 79-0

31. SCR 62 (Margett)- This concurrent resolution commemorates the bicentennial of the founding of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

STATUS: Chaptered, Resolution Chpt. #54.

**Legislative History**

**Sen. Veterans Affairs: 5-0**

**Sen. Floor: 33-0**

**Asm. Veterans Affairs: 10-0**

**Asm Floor: 76-0**