



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number One

February 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTAIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

NEW E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of Ohio Legislative Report (*OL Report*). It is an emailed newsletter for all members of the Ohio VFW or Auxiliary who subscribe.

It is our hope that it will be issued around the first week of each month and cover primarily news of issues affecting Ohio's veterans, military, and their families in the Ohio General Assembly.

It will also be used as a call to arms when there is a piece of legislation that needs the help of the 85,000 members of our organizations but contacting legislators requesting them to act.

Do not expect every bit of information needed to enlighten everyone on a bill to be published here. In most cases we will give a summary of a piece of legislation and a link you can use to get all the details. Some bills are hundreds or thousands of pages, but even three or four pages would be more than we can fit into the *OL Report*. If you have questions about something you will always find the editors email posted on page one.

We hope you enjoy the *OL Report* and will learn and benefit from its content. If there is something you would like to see included, let us know. If you have an idea that would improve it, let us know. If you have a complaint about the *OL Report*, let us know. We know there is always room for improvement and we want to hear your ideas.

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published [at least] once per month to report the latest information about legislative issues –from both Washington, DC and Columbus, OH - that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families members in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to members of the Veteran Service Organizations who subscribe.

Editor: David K. Root

Email: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT WHAT YOUR VFW IS DOING FOR YOU ON THE HILL

Signup for 'VFW Action Corps Weekly'

www.vfw.org/advocacy

NEW YEAR—NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ohio Legislature held the first sessions on January 3 and officially began the 135th General Assembly. The 135th G.A. runs for two years.

After the swearing in of all legislators, the first order of business was to elect the leaders of each chamber. In the Senate Chamber all went as planned and Senator Matt Huffman was elected President for the second time.

But on the House side, things did not go as well. The representative expected to be elected was not and it became a rocky start for the new House of Representatives. The elected Speaker of the House was Representative Jason Stephens.

By the end of four weeks the Senate announced the leaders and members of all standing committees the first week, the house announced their committee leaders the second week and the committee members at the end of the month. The Senate had introduced more than 40 bills and numerous resolutions. The House will start introducing bills the first week of February. The Senate is in its third week of Committee hearings. The House will start holding hearing the second week of February.

Let us hope the House can put their problems behind them and get down to meaningful work very soon. There is plenty of work to be done.

NEW YEAR - NEW CONGRESS

The 118th Congress of the United States began not too unlike the Ohio General assembly did. The Senate faired well while the House sputtered. It took fifteen ballots over a four day period before the members of House of Representatives elected Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House.

Things are moving along now as bills are being introduced and committee hearings are being held.

Ohio has one less Representative than in the past. The 2020 census showed a smaller increase in population than other states did. Because of that Ohio now has 15 congressional districts.

You will find a list of all Ohio's U.S. representatives and senators and their contact information within this issue.

NEW DISTRICTS

Following the 2020 census the Ohio General Assembly, after must controversy, set new congressional district and new district for the Ohio House and Senate. Your districts may have changes. If you are not sure what district you are now in check on the Ohio Secretary of State's website from this link:

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters

VETERANS IN THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Next issue of the *OL Report* have a will list the Veterans serving in the Ohio Senate.

Steve Demetriou District H35 (R)

Representative Demetriou studied economics at the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 2011 with Dean's List honors and a bachelor's degree. After West Point, Demetriou was commissioned as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army.

During his time in the Army, Rep. Demetriou completed Army Ranger and Airborne training. He served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

Haraz N. Ghanbari ** District H75 (R)

Haraz has more than two decades of military service. He is a Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Inherent Resolve, and an Army veteran of Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander on Sept. 1, 2018, he currently continues his service in the United States Navy Reserve.

**Representative Ghanbari is an Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Honoree -Class of 2018.

Jennifer Gross District H45 (R)

Gross is a 21-year Air Force veteran and retired Lt. Colonel, who served our great nation in Saudi Arabia during Operation Provide Comfort and in Sarajevo during Operation Provide Promise. Gross retired from the military in 2008.

Adam Holmes District H97 (R)

Holmes spent over 27 years in the United States Marine Corps and retired as a Colonel in 2016. During his career as a Marine aviator, Holmes served in several senior leadership and command positions. His experience includes 40 combat missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and over 3000 flight hours supporting crisis response missions in Somalia, Rwanda, the Middle East and other areas around the world.

Beth Lear District H64 (R)

She served in the Ohio Air National Guard, including active duty at the Pentagon during Operation Desert Storm.

Mike Loychik District H65 (R)

Loychik dedicated eight years of his life to the United States Air Force. He was a C-130 Crew Chief with a special operations group, as well as a combat search and rescue group. He retired as a Staff Sergeant.

Adam C. Miller District H6 (D)

Miller is a practicing attorney and a Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps member, US Army Reserves. Rep. Mille recently returned from an Active Duty tour as Rule of Law Director, NATO/US Forces Afghanistan. He is Colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps (Reserve) and has served multiple tours overseas.

Tracy M. Richardson District h86 (R)

She is a graduate of West Point and was deployed in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, earning a Bronze Star Medal. She is currently serving as a U.S. Army Reservist.

Brian Stewart District H78 (R)

Rep. Stewart enlisted for active duty in the Army after experiencing 9/11 as a high school senior. He is an infantry veteran of the Iraq War and earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) in addition to twice receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

Daniel P. Troy District H60 (D)

Rep. Troy is a U.S. Army veteran.

Casey Weinstein District H34 (D)

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Casey served at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Scott Wiggam District H77 (R)

During Scott's four year, active duty tour in the United States Air Force, he was honored with an Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

Bernard Willis District H74 (R)

Representative Willis is a career military pilot earning the rank of colonel as a multi-tour commander who flew F-16s and unmanned MQ-1 Predator drones.

He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, distinguished graduate of the MQ-1 Predator transition course, and was the top Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Security Forces Officer course where he received the 4-Star Air Education and Training Command commander's award for excellence.

118th United States Congress

Ohio Members

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

District 1 Greg Landsman
1432 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-2216

District 2 Brad R. Wenstrup
2419 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-3164

District 3 Joyce Beatty
2303 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-4324

District 4 Jim Jordan
2056 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-2676

District 5 Robert E. Latta
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-6405

District 6 Bill Johnson
2336 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5705

District 7 Max L. Miller
143 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-3876

District 8 Warren Davidson
2113 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-6205

District 9 Marcy Kaptur
2186 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-4146

District 10 Michael R. Turner
2082 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-6465

District 11 Shontel M. Brown
2344 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-7032

District 12 Troy Balderson
2429 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5355

District 13 Emilia Strong Sykes
1217 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-6265

District 14 David P. Joyce
2065 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5731

District 15 Mike Carey
2234 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-2015

SENATE:

Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Office Building
(202) 224-2315

J. D. Vance
B40C Dirksen Office Building
(202) 224-3353

All office buildings are in:
Washington, DC 20515

You can find links to the websites of all Ohio
legislators from the following link:
www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member

BILLS INTRODUCED IN JANUARY

The house got off to a slow and rocky start and as of February 1st no bills have been introduced, although many representative have them waiting for the next session so they can introduce them. We will be posting them on the *VFW of Ohio—State Legislation* facebook page as they are made public.

In the senate there are four bills of interest to our veterans and their families.

SB 12 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee.

- Establishes a veteran-owned business enterprise certification program under the Department of Development.
- Expands the eligibility criteria for set-aside state purchasing contracts currently available to certified minority business enterprises to include certified veteran-owned business enterprises.
- Increases the value of set-aside state purchasing contracts from 15% to 20% of the estimated total value of purchases per fiscal year.
- Reserves 5% of state purchasing contracts for certified veteran-owned business enterprises and preserves the 15% of state purchasing contracts that are reserved for certified minority business enterprises under current law.

SB 14 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

- Permits a school district, community school, or STEM school to employ as a teacher an eligible veteran who does not hold an educator license.
- Establishes related service, educational, registration, and mentorship requirements that a veteran must meet in order to be employed as a teacher.
- Permits an eligible veteran to teach a core subject area.

SB 15 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

- Creates a permanent motor vehicle registration option for retired military veterans within the existing Military License Plate Program.
- Waives standard motor vehicle registration taxes and fees (after the first year of registration) for a retired military veteran who registers a motor vehicle under the Program.

SB 43:

Introduced by Senator Andrew O. Brenner (District 19) on January 31st.

Has not been referred to a committee yet.

The summary was not available yet but it will amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.064, 4503.065, and 4503.066 of the Revised Code to modify the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses. To find a bill put the bill number (ie: SB 12 or SB 43) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website from this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Two

March 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

FEBRUARY SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

FEB 7th SENATE: President of the Senate appointed Senator Frank Hoagland to serve on the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Board for the 135th General Assembly.

FEB. 9th HOUSE: Speaker of the House announced the appointments to all the House Standing Committees and Sub Committees.

Speaker of the House reappointed Leader Russo to the Ohio Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

Feb. 14th Senate: President of the Senate appointed Senator Terry Johnson to serve on the state council on educational opportunity for military children, Ohio Military Children's Compact Commission, for the 135th General Assembly.

If you know of another Ohio VFW or Auxiliary member who would enjoy reading Ohio Legislative Report please forward this issue to them and let them know they can subscribe to it. They just need to email us their name and email address and tell us which Ohio VFW Post they are a member of. *Find the Email on page one.*

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published [at least] once per month to report the latest information about legislative issues –from both Washington, DC and Columbus, OH - that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families members in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to members of the Veteran Service Organizations who subscribe.

Editor: David K. Root
Email: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

"The most important political office is that of the private citizen."

-Louis D. Brandeis

Primary elections are just months away. VFW encourages members to be involved but wants to make sure they are doing it the right way. Here are things you need to remember.

VFW Involvement in Elections and Political Activities

VFW members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process. Hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings, and other events featuring candidates for public office. Veterans are a strong voting bloc and a constituency that most candidates want on their side. As we approach the next election cycle, here are a few items to keep mind as you get involved and attend or host candidate functions and town hall meetings:

DO's

- ◆ Do attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.
- ◆ Do set up voter registration drives /Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.
- ◆ Do provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.
- ◆ Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
- ◆ Do wear your VFW cap at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

DON'Ts

- ◆ Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District or Post.
- ◆ Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate.

The key is to stay informed on veterans' issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support veterans. It does not matter which candidates you support as long as they know you are a VFW member and are concerned about your fellow veterans, service members, and their families.

For more information on how to get involved, read the VFW's [Veterans Vote brochure](#)

Stay informed by reviewing the [VFW's Legislative Priority Goals](#)

If you have questions, please contact the VFW at vfwac@vfw.org

Some Veterans Bills To Watch In Congress

HR 41: Introduced on January 1st by Congressman James R. Baird (IN)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that when a veteran enrolled in the VA health care system contacts the VA by telephone to schedule an appointment for care or services at a VA facility, the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that telephone call.

HR 562: Introduced on January 26th by Congressman Brin J. Mast (FL)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to permit a Member of Congress (upon request) to use a VA facility to meet with constituents. The VA and the General Services Administration must jointly identify available spaces in VA facilities for such purposes.

The VA must prescribe regulations regarding such use of a VA facility by a Member of Congress.

S 42: Introduced on January 24th by Senator Jon Tester (MT)

A bill to improve the management and performance of the capital asset programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, and for other purposes.

S 132: Introduced on January 30th by Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)

This bill requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing certain services and a module comprised of specified elements as part of the pre-separation transition process for members of the Armed Forces for the purpose of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

Follow all the bills in Congress at...
www.congress.gov

Ohio Became The 17th State 220 Years Ago This Month

On April 30, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed into law an enabling act that authorized “the inhabitants of the eastern division of the territory northwest of the river Ohio” to initiate the procedures necessary to be admitted to the Union as a state. The act fixed a date for a constitutional convention and established terms for voting for delegates to the convention. The convention adopted the first Constitution of Ohio on November 29, 1802. Congress accepted the Constitution and President Jefferson approved it on February 19, 1803, after which Ohio was admitted to the Union as a state.



The celebration of Ohio’s statehood is in commemoration of the first time the General Assembly conducted state business on March 1, 1803, in Chillicothe. The state constitution was signed by President Thomas Jefferson a few weeks earlier and had been approved by Congress in early 1803.

Follow all the action of the 135th Ohio General Assembly on our facebook page and be in the know at all times

VFW of OHIO—State Legislation

VETERANS IN THE OHIO SENATE

In the last issue of the *OL Report* we published a list the Veterans serving in the Ohio House.

Hearcel F. Craig District S15 (D)

He proudly served our nation in the United States Army from 1970 – 1972.

Frank Hoagland District S30 (R)

Senator Hoagland served as a Navy SEAL for nearly 30 years, participating in combat zones including the International War on Terrorism and the War on Drugs in South America. After his last combat deployment in 2011, Senator Hoagland retired.

Terry A. Johnson District S14 (R)

Commissioned into the Ohio Army National Guard while a fourth-year medical student, he attained the rank of colonel in just 12 years. A senior flight surgeon and the Ohio Army National Guard's first State Aviation Medical Officer, Dr. Johnson was deployed overseas multiple times, including two tours in Iraq and one posting in Kuwait. He ended his military career in 2011 as the Army Guard's State Surgeon.

Steve Wilson District S7 (R)

He was honorably discharged as a Naval Officer in 1975.

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT WHAT YOUR VFW IS DOING FOR YOU ON THE HILL

Sign up today for

‘VFW Action Corps Weekly’

www.vfw.org/advocacy

2023 OHIO PRIMARY/ SPECIAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

March 17 Military and Overseas Absentee
Voting Begins

April 3 Deadline for Voter Registration for
May 2 Primary/Special
Election

April 4 Absentee Voting by Mail and Early
In-Person Voting Begins

April 25 Absentee Ballot Applications Must
be Received by Your Board of
Elections by Close of Business

May 2 PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION DAY

Do you have questions about Elections
and Voting in Ohio?
Find answers are at the Secretary of
State website:

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters

You can watch live every session of both
chambers, all committee hearings, Governor
DeWine's press conferences, and much more on
the Ohio Channel.

They are also archived for viewing at a
later date.

ohiochannel.org

Did you know Governor Mike DeWine has six
regional offices as well as his Columbus office to
better serve the citizens of Ohio?

Governor's Office

Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117
(614) 644-4357

Eastern Regional Office

161 South High Street, Room 404
Akron, OH 44308-1615

Northeast Regional Office

615 West Superior Avenue, 12th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44113-1187

Northwest Regional Office

1 Government Center, Suite 1520
Toledo, OH 43604-2205

Southeast Regional Office

2163 St. Rt. 821, Building 6-A
Marietta, OH 45750-5318

Southwest Regional Office

525 East Vine Street Suite 1040
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Western Regional Office

Fifth Third Center, 1 South Main Street, Suite 320,
Dayton, OH 45402-2065

**Learn about the *Ohio*
Department of Veterans Services.
Discover all of the programs,
responsibilities, endeavors and
goals of this state agency.**

www.dvs.ohio.gov

BILLS INTRODUCED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

SB 45:

Introduced by Senator Sandra O'Brien (District 32) on February 7th.

Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

To enact section 5534.612 of the Revised Code to designate a bridge spanning the Mahoning River in Trumbull County as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge."

HB 18:

Introduced by Representative Tavia Galonski (District 33) on February 15th.

Referred to the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The bill requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to accept a county issued veterans identification card in lieu of an applicant's DD-214 as documentary evidence of service from a person who applies for a military license plate.

HB 23:

Introduced by Representative Jay Edwards (District 94) on February 15th.

Referred to the House Finance Committee.

To amend sections 124.152, 4981.02, 5503.031, and 5517.011; to enact sections 746.01, 746.02, 746.03, 746.04, 746.05, 746.06, and 746.07; and to repeal section 5501.09 of the Revised Code to make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

HB 53:

Introduced by Representative Jean Schmidt (District 62) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on February 16th.

Referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

To amend sections 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 5725.38, 5726.60, 5727.242, 5727.301, 5729.21, 5736.51, 5747.85, and 5751.55 of the Revised Code to authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans, service members, and their spouses.

More bills on the next page...

SB 63:

Introduced by Senator George F. Lang (District 4) on February 21st.

Referred to the Senate Insurance Committee.

To enact section 2307.931 of the Revised Code to require a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to file specified disclosures.

SB 64:

Introduced by Senators William P. DeMora (District 25) and Steve Wilson (District 7) on February 21st.

Referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

To amend section 5919.34 of the Revised Code to expand the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program.

HB 69:

Introduced by Representatives Brian Stewart (District 12) and Bernard Willis (District 74) On February 27th.

Referred to the House armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

- Requires each county veterans' service commission to include at least two members who served in the military after September 11, 2001.
- Requires one member of each county veterans' service commission to be appointed by the board of county commissioners.

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website with this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Three

April 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

MARCH HAPPENINGS

Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Senator Andrew O. Brenner will extend the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to spouses of a disabled veteran who dies before receiving a qualifying disability rating.

On March 7th SB 43 was voted out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and recommended for favorable passage. The vote was 5 to 0. On the 29th it passed on the Senate floor with a vote of 31 to 0. The bill goes to the House next where it will be referred to a House Committee for hearings.

Senate Bill 63, introduced by Senator George Lang will require a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to file specified disclosures. It is generating a lot of interest from proponents and opponents alike.

Senator Lang offered sponsor testimony on March 8th. In the second hearing held on March 15th there were six testimonies offered for the most part from those representing the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Insurance and Manufacturing Associations, and Law Firms. On March 29th more proponent testimony was heard from representatives of Ohio Business Roundtable, NFIB, and two law firms. Opponents who offered testimony were American Legion Department of Ohio, District 11 VFW, and Ohio Association for Justice.

Senate Bill 63 will be hearing more testimony from both sides and many more hearings as this General Assembly goes forward. This one could get very heated.

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published [at least] once per month to report the latest information about legislative issues –from both Washington, DC and Columbus, OH - that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families members in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to members of the Veteran Service Organizations who subscribe.

Editor: David K. Root

Email: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

“Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.”

-Charles de Gaulle

HR 1139—*GUARD VA Benefits Act* is one of the four VFW top priorities in Congress. Contact your Congressman.

Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies

The VFW's Concerns:

The VFW is concerned that bad actors have been preying on veterans by seeking to access their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, unaccredited consulting groups that the VFW calls "Claim Sharks" viewed the chaos as an exploitation opportunity. Since the passage of the PACT Act, they have ramped up their efforts even more.

These groups aggressively advertise online and make promises to increase veterans' disability ratings. Some charge thousands of dollars in fees for their services and even request VA login credentials to track when veterans receive future ratings increases. If a veteran receives a disability percentage increase years later, often these companies return seeking more money. Furthermore, they routinely obtain medical opinions from affiliated medical providers, which raises ethical concerns.

Under VA regulations, accredited representatives of Veterans Service Organizations, like the VFW, cannot charge fees for claims services. We gladly provide these services for free. Attorneys and agents may also seek VA accreditation, and may charge certain fees that are capped and can apply only to retroactive benefits. Claim Sharks, however, avoid accreditation in order to impose exorbitant fees and avoid VA oversight. Several years ago, penalties regarding fees were removed to allow accredited attorneys and agents to charge certain fees, leaving a gap in the law that predators are exploiting. The VFW believes that penalties need to be reinstated. Anyone who assists veterans with the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of VA claims should adhere to established fee caps or be subject to penalties.

The VFW urges Congress to:

Pass the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act (HR 1139), known as the ***GUARD VA Benefits Act***. This legislation would reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits.

Some Other Bills To Watch In Congress

HR 303: Introduced on January 11th by Congressman Gus M. Billirakis (FL)

This bill amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation.

HR 705: Introduced on February 1st by Congressman Mike Bost (IL)

This bill prohibits the VA from transmitting personally identifying information of a veteran or a beneficiary to the NICS solely on the basis that such veteran or beneficiary has an appointed fiduciary to manage their benefits, unless there is an order or finding of a judicial authority that such veteran or beneficiary is a danger to themselves or others.

S 132: Introduced on January 30th by Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)

This bill requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing certain services and a module comprised of specified elements as part of the pre-separation transition process for members of the Armed Forces for the purpose of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

Current Legislation in the Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and their Families

- HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program

Exciting News

You can now read every issue of

Ohio Legislative Report

On the

Lorain County Veterans Service Commission
website



www.loraincountyveterans.com

2023 OHIO PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

- April 3** Deadline for Voter Registration for May 2 Primary/Special Election
- April 4** Absentee Voting by Mail and Early In-Person Voting Begins
- April 25** Absentee Ballot Applications Must be Received by Your Board of Elections by Close of Business

May 2 PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION DAY

How to Read a Bill

Members of the General Assembly rely on the nonpartisan staff of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to draft the bills they request. While the drafting work is performed by LSC, members should become familiar with the form and structure of bills in order to have a thorough understanding of the law-making process. Members can learn about the contents of a bill in a variety of ways such as reading bill analyses and fiscal notes or listening to committee testimony and the comments of sponsors, other legislators, and lobbyists. However, there is no substitute for reading the bill itself.

When reading a bill, a member may have questions relating to the meaning and clarity of the language. These are often the same questions that cause difficulties in administering the law when the bill is enacted. Occasionally, technical or legal terms are required, but normally the language of a bill should be simple and concise. If the language is not clear, the member should seek clarification.

The Ohio Constitution requires legislation to be drafted in a specific format.

The sample bill (Elements of a Bill) illustrates the major parts of a bill.

Taken from the 18th edition of A Guidebook for Ohio Legislators for the 135th General Assembly.

Elements of a Bill		
	As Introduced	
	135th General Assembly Regular Session 2023-2024	
		S. B. No. 100
	Senator Ohio	
	A BILL	
Title	To amend section 5748.06 and to repeal section 5748.07 of the Revised Code to increase the credit senior citizens may take against school district income taxes.	1 2 3
Style Clause	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	
Amending or Enacting Clause	Section 1. That section 5748.06 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	4 5
Body	Sec. 5748.06. For a taxpayer sixty-five years of age or older during the taxable year, a credit shall be permitted against the tax otherwise due under this chapter for such year equal to fifty <u>sixty</u> dollars for each return required to be filed under section 5748.08 of the Revised Code for taxes levied under this chapter. The credit allowed under this section shall not exceed the tax otherwise due.	6 7 8 9 10 11
Repeal Clause (for amended sections)	Section 2. That existing section 5748.06 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	12 13
Repeal Clause (for sections repealed outright)	Section 3. That section 5748.07 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	14 15

BILLS INTRODUCED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

HB 90:

Introduced by Representative Thomas F. Patton (District 17) on March 7th.

Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill would amend sections 323.152 and 4503.065 of the Revised Code to authorize a total property tax exemption for the homesteads of totally disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

HB 123:

Introduced by Representatives Joseph A. Miller, III (District 53) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on March 21st.

Referred to the House

The bill will enact section 9.51 of the Revised Code to designate the Honor and Remember flag as the symbol of Ohio's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all fallen service members and their families and to encourage that the flag be displayed at the Statehouse in Columbus on Memorial Day.

HB 126:

Introduced by Representatives Adam Mathews (District 56) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on March 21st.

Referred to the House

The bill will amend section 718.01 of the Revised Code to expand a municipal income tax exemption for military pay.

HB 131:

Introduced by Representative Angela N. King (District 84) on March 23rd.

Referred to the House

The bill will enact section 5534.874 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of United States Route 33 in Auglaize County as the "Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway."

More bills on the next page...

HB 132:

Introduced by Representative Angela N. King (District 84) on March 23rd.

Referred to the House

The bill will enact section 5534.875 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 29 in Auglaize County as the "Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway."

HB 133:

Introduced by Representative Angela N. King (District 84) on March 23rd.

Referred to the House

The bill will To enact section 5534.876 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 66 in Auglaize County as the "Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway."

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website with this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Four

May 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically every to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus and Washington that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe send your name and email address to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

March and April were not your 'business as usual' type of months for the members of the Ohio General Assembly.

On February 15th Representative Jay Edwards (District 94) dropped four bills that are part of the state budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. During March and April nearly every house committee and subcommittee was caught up in hearings for the bills with testimony from hundreds of individuals, corporations, organizations, state department heads, and groups of every size all asking for a piece of the state's financial pie.

HB 23 deals with the transportation budget, HB 31 is the workers' compensation budget, and HB 32 has to do with the industrial commission budget. But the big daddy of them all is House Bill 33. It 'Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025'. The bill started out on 4,311 pages with total General Revenue Funds averaging about \$43 billion for each year. HB 33 is the one that pertains to the veterans and military in Ohio and is the one to watch.

On March 21st the House Subcommittee on Transportation Committee meeting heard testimony from The Department of Veterans Services, The Adjutant General's Department, The Department of Ohio VFW, American Veterans Department of Ohio, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio, and the American Legion Department of Ohio. All reported on their use of previously budgeted funds, their need of funds during the next two fiscal years, and/or the need to increase their funds.

The biennium budget is introduced every two years at the beginning of the new general assembly (odd numbered years). The house is supposed to hold hearings, pass a balanced budget and then send it to the Senate so they can hold hearings and pass a balanced budget. If the senate makes any amendments to the budget passed by the house, it must go back to the house so they can agree to the amendments. Once both chambers agree on the budget it is sent to the governor for him to sign off on or veto.

A balanced budget must be agreed to by the senate, house, and governor no later than June 30th –the day before the new fiscal year begins.

April 26th, House Bill 33 passed in the House with a 56 to 14 vote. The next day it was introduced in the Senate.

By the way... House Bill 33 is now

We are happy to announce
O.L. Report
now has
Letters to the Editor

See Page Three

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Some of their 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

For more than 75 years, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA—the nation’s premier nonprofit of choice for disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers—has led the fight for accessibility and provided a full circle of support from the point of injury or diagnosis to all of life’s milestones. With offices inside every Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) spinal cord injury and disorder (SCI/D) center across the U.S., PVA is unmatched. Staffed with licensed architects, medical professionals, legal experts, and leaders in research and education, PVA fights to help veterans with SCI/D or diseases, like MS and ALS, receive the benefits they earned, the specialized health care they deserve, the accessible homes and vehicles they need, and the meaningful careers they want.

For these veterans to thrive, they must have access to high-quality, comprehensive health care and timely delivery of all earned benefits. They must also have equitable access to the same opportunities and freedoms available to all Americans.

Protect Access to VA’s Specialized Health Care Services

To ensure access to VA’s health care system, it must receive sufficient funding. Without it, VA will be unable to provide veterans proper care, hire and retain health care professionals and support workers, and maintain and expand VA medical infrastructure. PVA advocates for proper funding for the SCI/D system of care through the Independent Budget—a partnership with DAV, PVA, and VFW. In addition to adequate funding, other reforms are needed to ensure VA can meet veterans’ health care needs.

Staffing

VA must effectively use the pay and workforce provisions approved in Public Law 117-103 (RAISE Act provisions) and the PACT Act (Public Law 117-168) to recruit and retain necessary health care professionals. VA must also increase retention incentives and reform its hiring processes, including working with Congress to make needed reforms. Congress must also take additional action to boost pay caps for other providers not included in the RAISE Act provisions and Pact Act.

Infrastructure

VA’s infrastructure processes need to be reformed and staffing increased to allow the department to effectively use needed funding. VA also must develop a nationwide infrastructure plan to better address the SCI/D system’s unique care delivery model.

Bills To Watch In The US Congress

HR 1529: Introduced on March 10th by Congressman Morgan Luttrell (R-TX-008).

The bill, known as *Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023* will require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Specifically, the VA must increase the amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients that is effective on December 1, 2023. The bill requires the VA to publish the amounts payable, as increased, in the Federal Register.

The VA is authorized to make a similar adjustment to the rates of disability compensation payable to persons who have not received compensation for service-connected disability or death.

HR 1282: Introduced on March 1st by Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-012)

S 344: Introduced on February 9th by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT).

These two companion bills are known as *Major Richard Star Act* and will provide that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans’ disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

S 414: Introduced on February 14th by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT).

The bill is known as *Caring for Survivors Act of 2023* and will amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and other purposes.

OPINIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bill Will Exempts Disabled Vets

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for Ohio House Bill 90 which proposes property tax exemptions for 100% permanently disabled veterans. The bill also includes veterans sixty-five years or older and their surviving spouses. Under current Ohio law, there is a property tax credit for the residence, or "homestead," of disabled vets.

The standard exemption is up to \$25,000 of the true home value. Additionally, an extended version of up to \$50,000 for homes of honorably discharged military vets with a total disability and surviving spouses of emergency responders who died in the line of duty. This new proposed law completely exempts a disabled veteran's home from taxes.

I am disappointed that my local senator, Kristina D. Roegner (R-Hudson), has not committed to the bill. Other states with property tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans justified the exemption as a moral obligation and a way of recognizing disabled veterans' unique challenges. House Bill 90 would enable disabled veterans to focus on their health, recovery, and daily needs while preventing them

from being homeless. The proposed legislation acknowledges these challenges and seeks to address them.

In conclusion, I urge you to contact your lawmakers, including my local senator, to support Ohio House Bill 90. Let us honor their service and sacrifice by supporting this critical legislation.

Dr. Douglas Cabarle

Gulf War Vet Says No To Asbestos Bill

As I was reading the text on Ohio Senate bill 63, I was in complete shock on how detailed an individual's summary must be to file an asbestos claim. Reading that bill brought me back to a dark time in my life. I am a Gulf War Veteran that was exposed to toxins released by burn pits and oil well fires. I spent 25 years of my life fighting for what I believed was my right to healthcare through the VA. 25 years of my life fighting an agency created to not only help me but my fellow veterans as well. Time and time again sending in proof that my illnesses were in fact caused by the exposure I endured during my time deployed to the middle east only to be denied by the VA. Veterans in this country have been gaslit

Continued on Page Four...

OUR OPINION

We Support Senate Bill 64

Citizen Soldiers have served Ohio since 1788. Known today as the Ohio National Guard, they have served in every major war from the War of 1812 to the War on Terrorism.

They answer the call when natural disasters strike and when the people get out of control. They serve in Ohio, in other states and overseas. They go where they are asked, when they are asked, for as long as they are needed.

Currently men and women of the Guard may apply for scholarships to help cover the cost of higher education. They must be actively enrolled as a full-time or part-time student working toward a bachelor's degree. Senators William P. DeMora (District 25) and Steve Wilson (District 7) sponsored SB 64 and it will expand and improve the scholarship program and make it even better.

SB 64 Expands the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to include a \$750 per eligibility unit award for recipients enrolled in graduate level courses. It creates an incentive under which individuals who extend their contract or enlistment by three years are awarded an additional 32 eligibility units under the scholarship and it clarifies that individuals who have enlisted, re-enlisted, extended enlistment, or who have accepted a warrant, commission, or appointment in the Ohio National Guard are eligible for the scholarship.

It is our hope that Senate Bill 64 will become law. We feel it will help the guard with recruitment and retention. Ohio in turn will get more well-educated men and women to benefit all of us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes your letters to the editor.

-Letters are limited to 150 words.

-Letters containing more than 150 words may be edited.

- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.

- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTRS TO: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

...Continued from Page Three

by the government long enough. This gaslighting has caused undo stress and turmoil in a veteran's life and it needs to end. Ohio Senate bill 63 will continue to gaslight Ohio veterans and their families and add unnecessary stress to a veteran that already has enough stress proofing to the VA that their illnesses are service connected. I for one think this bill should be voted down if it makes it to the floor for a vote. Enough is enough. Veterans deserve better than this. We defended our country and constitution only to have our elected officials turn their backs on us and force us to unnecessary restrictions and demands such as the ones included in this bill. Please call your state representatives and tell them to vote no on bill 63.

Tim Hauser
Cofounder Veterans Assurance
Network

Senate Bill Not Good For Veterans

S.B. 63, an asbestos claim related bill that is currently being kicked around in the Ohio Senate Insurance Committee, needs voted down. It will hurt any

Ohioans who have been directly or indirectly exposed to Asbestos this includes Veterans around the state of Ohio that was directly and indirectly exposed and their family members.

Those who served on Navy ships that had asbestos in them, were probably never told who manufactured the asbestos or what the brand name of it was. Which is one of the MANY specified disclosures that is listed as mandatory if passed.

This is not related to VA Disability but more specifically towards holding the makers of the asbestos products accountable for their product in the civilian side of the coin. If this bill passes, it could possibly lead up to issues within the VA. Call your Senators and tell them NO on SB 63.

Andrea Neutzling

Bill Would Strip Vet's Control of CVSC

The passage of Ohio House Bill 69 is not for Ohio's veterans' benefit. On its surface, the bill seems to imply that (mostly) younger vets have little to no input on the decisions made by the commissions. As a post-9/11 veteran working as the Director, I can tell you nothing could be

further from the truth. My office has seven employees who are post-9/11 vets. No issue that has not first passed through a post-9/11 veteran for review is ever presented to the board for consideration. To say that we, as post-9/11 vets, don't have a "seat at the table" demonstrates a lack of understanding of how many Veteran Service Offices work.

However, the true goal of this legislation is not to increase the number of post-9/11 veterans on the commissions. Rather, it is to covertly get into law what the County Commissioners Assoc. of Ohio has wanted for decades: control of the veteran service commissions. This bill, if passed, would begin to strip away control of the veteran service commissions from the county veterans and place it in the hands of the county commissioners. This should be no surprise to anyone when they realize that the sponsor (a veteran himself) of HB 69 is both a past county commissioner and a member of the CCAO board of directors.

Jacob D. Smith (MPA)
Executive Director,
Lorain County Veterans Service
Commission

Reflections

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

You can watch live every session of both chambers, all the committee hearings, Governor DeWine's press conferences, and much more on the Ohio Channel.

They are also archived for viewing at a later date.

www.ohiochannel.org

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway

- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits

- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran

- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway

Ohio Legislative Report Is Evolving For You

We have introduced some new things in this issue of Ohio Legislative Report. We hope you will like them.

One is our Opinion Page. We will be offering our opinion on legislation bills, resolutions, and events in our Ohio General Assembly. Remember as you read... these will be our opinions. You may not agree and that is okay; you don't have to. You of course can write to the editor and voice your opinion if you would like. All we ask is that you follow the rules so we do not need to edit your letter any more than is necessary.

Another new item in this issue is the 'Back in the day...' column that you will find on page six. This may not be in every issue but when we do run it, it will cover something from Ohio's rich history pertaining to our government, the statehouse, or other similar topics. If you have ideas that you think we should do, let us know in an email.

Also in the name of education you can use, we will in every issue print one of the section from the Ohio Constitution. We are starting at the beginning and Article I—Bill of Rights. Section 1 is Inalienable rights. Next month it will be Section 2 the next month Section 3 and we will continue until we have given you all 24 sections in Article I.

We will continue to keep you informed about the bills and resolutions that will effect our Ohio veteran and military families. If there is something you would like us to cover send us your idea in an email.

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1, INALIENABLE RIGHTS

Effective: 1851

All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety.

Back in the day...

Chillicothe (Ross County) served as the capital of the Ohio Territory after it separated from the Northwest Territory in 1800. It remained the capital until the government temporarily moved to the city of Zanesville (Muskingum County) in 1809. The capital returned to Chillicothe in 1812 before finally settling in Columbus in 1816.

Capitol Timeline

- 1795 Lucas Sullivant begins surveying land for the town of Franklinton, which later becomes part of Columbus.
- 1800 Chillicothe named territorial capital; first Statehouse erected.
- 1803 Ohio becomes 17th state admitted to the Union.
- 1809 Capital moves to Zanesville.
- 1812 Capital returns to Chillicothe temporarily. Columbus named the permanent capital, and 10 acres are donated by Ohioans for Capitol Square.
- 1816 Capital moves to Columbus.
- 1838 Thomas Cole, landscape painter, wins third place in design competition for Statehouse. Statehouse, as completed, favors Cole's design more than first or second place designs. General Assembly authorizes Act to begin building a new Statehouse.
- 1839 Cornerstone laid.



- 1840 Statehouse Act repealed; work stops.
- 1846 General Assembly passes new Statehouse Act, but prison labor shortage delays work.
- 1848 Money is appropriated to expedite construction.
- 1852 Original Statehouse burns to ground.
- 1857 Legislators meet in Statehouse for first time.
- 1859 Abraham Lincoln speaks on the east stairs of the Statehouse as part of the Lincoln/Douglas debates.
- 1861 Statehouse is officially completed;

Lincoln speaks to a joint session of the Ohio Legislature in the House Chamber.

- 1865 Lincoln's casket is displayed in the Rotunda.
- 1901 Judiciary Annex (the Senate Building) is completed.
- 1906 Alice Roosevelt Longworth unveils the McKinley Monument. The largest known crowd (50,000

people) gathers on the Statehouse grounds for this event.

- 1989 Renovation Master Plan approved.
- 1990 Construction begins.
- 1993 Senate Building restoration and Atrium completed.
- 1996 On July 5th, 1996 a joint session of the legislature commemorated the reopening of the renovated state capitol.

Learn about the *Ohio Department of Veterans Services*. Discover all of the programs, responsibilities, endeavors and goals of this excellent state agency.

www.dvs.ohio.gov

Follow all the weekly action of the 135th Ohio General Assembly on facebook and be in the know at all times

Updated almost every day

On Facebook search for

VFW of OHIO—State Legislation

BILLS INTRODUCED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

HR 95:

Introduced by Terrence Upchurch (District 20) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on April 18th.
Referred to the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The resolution urges the Congress of the United States to enact H.R. 1255 to make direct descendants of Black veterans of World War II eligible for Veterans Administration housing loans and education benefits.

SB 110:

Introduced by Senator George F. Lang (District 4) on April 19th.
Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.877 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 129 in Butler County as the "Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway."

SB 113:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on April 25th.
Referred to the Senate Veterans and Safety Committee.

The bill will amend section 4117.10 and to enact sections 3.19 and 124.95 of the Revised Code to prohibit a person who fails to comply with the Military Selective Service System from holding a public office or employment with the state.

SB 114:

Introduced by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20) on April 25th.
Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.873 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 33 in Fairfield County as the "Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway."

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website with this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Five

June 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTAIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically every to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus and Washington that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe send your name and email address to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

We hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day and were able to take a few moments to reflect on it's meaning and remember those who perished in the defense of our great country. And isn't that the reason that we have 132 elected officials serving in the Ohio Statehouse? Without the men and women who stepped up to the plate in the fight for freedom and the ultimate sacrifice made by more than a million of them, we would not have the freedoms we have today. Let us remember that when election day comes around. In November cast your vote in their honor. Be sure to research all those who are on your ballot and vote wisely.

Speaking of the statehouse, we looked over all the bills that were introduced in both chambers during the month of May and discovered that there were none that pertain to our military, veterans of the families of the military and veterans. We can only hope there will be some as the summer months go by.

If any of our readers know of something that the General assembly should address for the benefit of the former or current members of our armed forces, this would be a good time to contact your representative or senator and plant a idea that they can run with.

Although there was no new legislation introduced in May, there was plenty of action all month long with the existing bills.

The first hearing for a bill is usually the testimony from the bills primary sponsor. The second hearing is usually proponent testimony and the third opposition testimony. Further hearings can be testimony from proponents, opponents, and interested parties. Some bill will have half a dozen or more hearings.

In May SB 43 was introduced in the House after it passed unanimously in the Senate the month prior. Sponsor testimony was heard by the House Ways and Means Committee May 2nd and proponent testimony on the 10th. Although third and forth hears we scheduled there was no testimony so on the 23rd it was voted favorably out of committee. The full house gets it next.

Other bills heard for the first time were HB 126, HB 53, HB 150, and SB 113. House Resolution 95 also had sponsor testimony. Bills that had second hears during the month of may were HB 69, and HB 126. Bills that had a third (or more) hearing were SB 63 and SB 12.

HB 33 is the 'Budget Bill' and many senate committees held multiple hears. This could go on for a couple more weeks, but it needs to be passed by the senate and then sent back to the house for a vote of concurrence before landing on the Governor's desk. All this must be done by the end of June.

American Legion

Some of their 2023 TOP PRIORITIES

The American Legion is the voice of nearly 1.6 million U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolution-based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its membership and shape the organization's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress:

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention The leading issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of their civilian counterparts, with more than 6,000 veterans taking their lives annually. It is imperative to destigmatize asking for mental health support. Simultaneously, access to such support must increase. The American Legion encourages Congress to enhance access to alternative therapies, robustly fund VA's suicide-prevention outreach budget and continue to invest in mental-health research.

PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight Passage of the SFC Heath Robinson PACT Act in the 117th Congress ensured millions of toxic-exposed veterans will now have access to healthcare and compensation they rightfully deserve. VA estimates there will be up to 7 million new disability claims filed, due to eligibility expansion under the PACT Act and that the claims backlog will increase to 450,000 by October 2023. The efforts put forth by the VA workforce to reduce claims backlogs in recent years have been admirable, but substantial backlogs of hundreds of thousands of claims for sustained periods of time are not acceptable. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of information technology systems, as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure veterans claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources needed to properly implement this legislation.

Concurrent Receipt Currently, 50,300 military retirees with combat related injuries qualify for DoD retirement pay as well as VA disability compensation. However, for retired veterans with disability ratings less than 50%, the VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive their retirement pay and disability compensation.

Bills To Watch In The US Congress

HR 542: Introduced on March 29th by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA-26).

The bill, known as *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023* will amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

HR 693: Introduced on January 31st by Congressman Steve Womack (R-AR-3).

The bill is known as *VACANT Act* and will limit the detailing of directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to different positions within the Department, and for other purposes.

HR 1606: Introduced on March 14th by Congressman Bradley Scott Schneider (D-IL-10).

The bill, known as the *Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023* provides statutory authority for the Boots to Business Program, which provides entrepreneurship training to individuals including veterans and active members of the Armed Forces, to be administered by the Small Business Administration.

S 326: Introduced on February 9th by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT).

The bill is known as *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023* and will require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to study the effects of cannabis on veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system and have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or chronic pain (i.e., eligible veterans).

S 928: Introduced on March 22nd by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT).

The bill is known as *Not Just a Number Act* and will require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

OPINIONS

House Bill 57, sponsored by Representatives Thomas Hall (Madison Twp.) and Steve Demetriou (Bainbridge Twp.) is legislation that would adjust homestead exemptions to match inflation costs.

I recently testified before the House Ways and Means Committee as a proponent for HB 57. This in part, is my testimony.....

I spent three days walking the Halls of Congress talking to our Ohio Congressmen and Senators about the current key issues the VFW would like them to be working on. High on that list was the prevention of veteran suicides. We all know that suicides are tied to mental health, and much is being done nationally and even here in Ohio to study the issue and to reduce the number of suicides among veterans.

What the VFW is advocating is that the VA look into the causes of these mental health issues our veterans are facing. We feel there is more than PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury causing veteran suicide. As an example, a 2020 study of recently transitioned service members found those with fewer years of education had a higher risk of suicide, with lack of education being a likely factor contributing to difficulty finding post-military employment and potentially leading to financial instability.

But education is only one of the areas VFW wants the VA to be working on. Problems with employment and compensation are two other areas that can push a veteran to feel

helpless and give up on everything. The last issue VFW feels is a contributor to veteran suicide is housing. Data from one study of veterans who reported housing instability between 2012 and 2016 indicated over half of these veterans accessed homeless services and associated this use of services to a significant reduction in suicide risk. This is a positive sign for the ability of these programs to perform upstream intervention.

While the VFW national organization is working with our national legislators to look at these things as a way to reduce veteran suicide, we can work together to reduce the risk of suicide here in Ohio. Housing is one of the ways.

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency published their 'Housing Needs Assessment for Fiscal Year 2021' and it stated -and I quote, "Ohio's oldest veterans face substantial housing cost burden. One-in-five veteran mortgage holders aged 75 and over (20%) were severely cost burdened in 2018". There are also many younger veteran homeowners who are 100% disabled who could also be facing housing cost burden. This is exactly the issue that can drive up the veteran suicide rate in Ohio.

House Bill 57 can be a big part of ending veteran suicides at a very small cost. Much more can be done to curb the financial burden of veterans owning a home in Ohio, but HB 57 is a start. A small adjustment to compensate for the rising cost of living each year can be the difference of living in peace and living on the street for some.

I would like to thank Representatives Hall and Demetriou for sponsoring House Bill 57 and I urge the committee to support the bill.

David K. Root, Editor

Reflections

"So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy."

-Roger Nash Baldwin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 175 words.
- Letters containing more than 175 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway

Follow, learn, and research every bill as it travels through the Ohio General Assembly

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 2 RIGHT TO ALTER, REFORM, OR ABOLISH GOVERNMENT, AND REPEAL SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

Effective: 1851

All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary; and no special privileges or immunities shall ever be granted, that may not be altered, revoked, or repealed by the general assembly.

2023 OHIO SPECIAL/GENERAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

July 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for August 8 Special Election

August 8 Special Election Day

Oct 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for November 7 General Election

November 7 General Election day

Back in the day...

The Northwest Ordinance

One of the most important legislative documents in U.S. history, the Northwest Ordinance, is relatively unknown compared to its "siblings," the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Federal Constitution. July 13, 1987, marked the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Northwest Ordinance. Its importance cannot be underrated, as it laid the foundation for our system of free public education, set up the mechanism for the introduction of new states to the Union, and outlawed slavery northwest of the Ohio River. In addition, it made guarantees of individual liberties that were the cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Right..



Statehood

At least six states had territory affected by the terms of the Northwest Ordinance. Ohio was the first of these to enter the Union. Initially, the Ohio Territory was ruled by a military governor and three judges. Residents had no voice in government and were represented in the U.S. Congress by a non-voting delegate. It was in 1798 that the Ohio Territory gained sufficient population (5,000) of males to initiate self-government. A 22-member territorial legislature was formed, of which five members were selected to serve as territorial council.

Eligibility for statehood came in 1802, when the population reached 60,000 persons. Male voters

elected delegates to a Constitutional Convention. The delegates drafted the constitution on which our state government is based. On February 19, 1803, the U.S. Congress approved the constitution and admitted Ohio as the 17th state.

The constitution called for a bicameral legislature, similar to the federal model, consisting of a House of Representatives and Senate. The first session (meeting) of the Ohio House occurred in

Chillicothe on March 3, 1803 and consisted of 30 members. This first session was concerned with levying taxes, creating counties, and appropriating monies for the operation of the state.

Constitutional Conventions

In 1850, the people of Ohio voted to hold a second constitutional convention. Rapid population growth, an inadequate judicial system, legislative power, tax reform and flexibility were some of the issues that were

addressed. Ohio's second constitution was completed in 1851.

Two more constitutional conventions were held to construct today's government. Each one placed more legislative power in the hand of the voters. The conventions also helped equalize the branches of government, giving the governor veto power at the third constitutional convention in 1873. The fourth and final convention was held in 1912.

Strange but True...

Ohio became the 17th state of the Union when President Thomas Jefferson endorsed the United States Congress's decision to grant statehood on Feb. 19, 1803. Due to an oversight, Ohio wasn't "officially" admitted to the United States until Aug. 7, 1803.



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Six

July 2023

HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically every to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus and Washington that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe send your name and email address to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

The month of June kept most of our legislators very busy. With summer break just around the corner the top priority was to get their desks cleared off as best they could.

There was quite a bit of party sparring going on in the offices, in the committees, and on the floors. Because June was Pride Month LGBTQ+ was a main topic. Abortion, education, gun violence, and the Ohio constitution were also hot topics.

But the number one issue that was on everyone's plate was the State Operating Budget (House Bill 33) for fiscal years 2024-25. Representative Jay Edwards introduced HB 33 on the 15th of February. It was a 4,311-page bill then. After many hearings in many committees and many amendments the bipartisan bill was reported back to the House and passed on the 26th of April with a vote of 78 to 19. It was 5559 pages then and it was sent to the Senate for their consideration.

In the Senate it received the same process. Numerous hearings in numerous committees and numerous amendments. The difference was all in the voting. Voting in the Senate was strictly along party lines every step of the way. On June 15th the full Senate voted 24 to 7 to pass the amended budget – called Substitute House Bill 33 at that time. It then went back to the House but with a vote of 23 yeas to 71 nays the House failed to concur.

So SHB 33 was then sent to a conference committee made up of three Representative and three Senators to come up with a compromise budget that would be acceptable to a majority. On June 30th the Senate voted 25 to 6 to pass the 2024-2025 Operating Budget and the House passed it with a vote of 67 to 30. The legislators also passed a temporary extension of the current budget to give Governor Mike DeWine time to read and sign it. He has the power to veto items if he wants but is expected to sign the 9,198-page budget following the July 4th holiday.

What is in the Biennial Budget that is of interest to Ohio's veteran and military population? There are several areas that can be looked at.

The operating budget for the Adjutant General came to a total of \$121.03 million for the two fiscal years 2024 & 2025. That is an increase from the previous two-year total of \$111 million. The funding comes from three sources. The General Revenue Fund (GRF), Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF), and Federal funds (FED).

There are a couple of items in the Department of Higher Education that receive GRF dollars. The War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarships will get \$38.4 million, and the Air Force Institute of Technology will get \$4 million in FY 2024-2025. Also receiving GRF money will be the National Guard Scholarship Program. That program will get \$37.65 million during the two years.

The Department of Job and Family services will receive funds to help

Continued on Page Six...

BILLS INTRODUCED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

HB 202:

Introduced by Representative Jim Thomas (District 20) on June 6th.
Referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.644 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of United States Route 62 in Canton as the "Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway."

HB 231:

Introduced by Representatives Gail K. Pavliga (District 72) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on June 29th.
Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill will amend section 340.03 and to enact sections 5119.80, 5119.801, 5119.803, 5119.805, 5119.807, 5119.809, 5119.8011, 5119.8013, 5119.8014, 5119.8015, and 5119.8017 of the Revised Code to establish a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis telephone line.

HR 189:

Introduced by Representative Gail Manning (District 52) on June 20th.
Referred to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

The resolution honors Thomas Mihalys Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial.

HCR 8:

Introduced by Representatives Thomas F. Patton (District 17) and Brian E. Lampton (District 70) on June 20th.
Referred to House Aviation and Aerospace Committee on June 27th and adopted the same day.

The resolution will urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.

SR 171:

Introduced by Senator Nathan H. Manning (District 13) on June 30th.

The resolution honors Thomas Mihalys Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary.

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

Disabled American Veterans

Some of their 2023 TOP PRIORITIES

.Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures

The men and women who serve are often placed in situations that have long-term health effects that will impact their individual functioning, often results in industrial impairments, which require physical rehabilitation and future health care. When service members are subjected to toxins and environmental hazards, our sense of duty to them must be heightened as many of the illnesses and diseases due to these toxic exposures may not be identifiable for years, even decades, after they have completed their service. Although there has been some notable progress achieved over the past two decades for veterans who suffered illness due to toxic and environmental exposures, there are still too many who have yet to receive the full recognition, health care and benefits our nation owes to them.

Survivor Benefits, Veteran Burials and Cemeteries

DAV seeks to increase DIC rates to 55% of disability compensation and index them for inflation. Currently, DIC provides a surviving spouse only 43% of the disability compensation provided to a 100% disabled veteran, even though many survivors, particularly those who also served as the veteran's caregiver, reported they had no source of income other than the veteran's disability compensation.

DAV supports change DIC to a graduated benefit to make survivors eligible at five years for 50% of the full benefit amount, increasing proportionally to 100% at 10 years. The DIC program would be more equitable if survivors were eligible for a partial DIC benefit starting after five years of the veteran's being totally disabled, and proportionally increasing to full DIC entitlement at 10 years.

DAV is advocating to reduce the remarriage age for a surviving spouse to remain eligible for DIC to 55. The Civil Service Retirement System and Department of Defense's Survivor Benefit Plan program both allow spouses to remain eligible for survivor benefits if they remarry at age 55 or older; the DIC program should do the same.

Education and Employment

The journey from injury to recovery is not complete until a veteran is able to find meaning in his or her life. For those who are able, that means getting back to work to care for their families. As the nation winds down from more than a decade of war, thousands are making the transition from military to civilian life.

DAV is committed to ensuring that the men and women who stood up for America have the tools, resources and opportunities they need to competitively enter the job market and secure meaningful employment. DAV recognizes the value, talent, education and work ethics that veterans add to the workforce.

Veterans' unemployment, especially rates among service-disabled veterans, remains a matter of concern. The need for VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) services is escalating with the increase of separating service members returning from deployment in Southwest Asia. In addition, stagnant funding for VR&E has adversely impacted the congressionally recommended 1:125 counselor-to-client ratio, which is crucial to providing one-on-one counseling.

Bills To Watch In The US Congress

HR 645: Introduced on January 31st by Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL-20).

This bill (*known as the Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act*) permanently authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use specified funding to provide assistance to homeless veterans and veterans participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. Additionally, the VA may collaborate with one or more organizations to manage the use of VA land for homeless veterans for living and sleeping.

HR 1378: Introduced on March 7th by Congressman Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-6).

This bill (*Veterans' Appeals Backlog Improvement Act*) would amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an internship program within the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

HR 3790: Introduced on June 1st by Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-7).

This bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death.

S 302: Introduced on February 7th by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

The bill (*Barbosa Act*) would amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide colorectal cancer screening for members of the uniformed services who served in locations associated with toxic exposure, and for other purposes.

OPINIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Portion of Law Should Be Amended Not Removed

Ohio Senate Bill 116 focuses on unemployment benefits.

Ohio is also one of the few states that have the Dependency add-on. Which, with this bill they would do away with. The current bill only makes it available to those who made over certain amounts per week based on the number of Dependents (1-2 Dep. \$1002 or more and for 3+ dep. \$1114). This portion of the bill doesn't need to be removed but changed so there is no limit. We have all heard stories of single parents going to job interviews and needing to leave their kids in the car because they can't afford a daycare/babysitter.

Unemployment is something that transition Active Duty service members are told to get while we try/ wait for a job, especially for single/dual military families, though they still wouldn't

qualify for the add-on because of the Wage limit amount set so high, hence why this needs amended and not removed completely.

Andrea Neutzling

20 Year Veteran Supports Veteran Legislation

I am a 20 yr Army Veteran who served in Iraq. I am also a life member of the VFW, Amvets, DAV and American Legion. I currently serve as the Director for Sandusky County Veterans Service Office.

I strongly support the following bills that are in the

Continued on Page Six...

You can follow, learn, and research every bill as it travels through the Ohio General Assembly.

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OUR OPINION

Ohio Needs Command HQ

The recently introduced House Concurrent Resolution 8, if passed in both chambers (it has already passed in the House) will be sent to the President, Secretary of Defense, and others in Washington urging them to select Ohio for the location of the United States Space Command's permanent headquarters. It was introduced by Representatives Thomas F. Patton (District 17) and Brian E. Lampton (District 70).

With Ohio's rich history in aviation and aerospace in is logical that Wright Patterson Air Force Base be named as the U.S. Space Command headquarters. We are known as the 'birthplace of aviation and is the home of 26 astronauts. We have NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and NASA Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky.

According to Patton, "Wright-Patt is one of the largest and most impressive Air Force bases in the country, with over 30,000 individuals employed on base, including military members, government workers, and civilian employees".

"It is no question that Wright Patterson sets the tone for aviation and aerospace innovation and workforce development in our state and country", Lampton said in a press release.

Dayton, Ohio would be a perfect fit for Space Command Headquarters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 175 words.
- Letters with over 175 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

*"In a gentle way, you can
shake the world"*

-Mahatma Gandhi

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #3 RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE

Effective: 1851

The people have the right to assemble together, in a peaceable manner, to consult for their common good; to instruct their representatives; and to petition the general assembly for the redress of grievances.

2023 OHIO SPECIAL/GENERAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

July 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for August 8 Special Election

August 8 Special Election Day

Oct 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for November 7 General Election

November 7 General Election day

... Continued from Page Four

Ohio General Assembly: HB 18, HB 33, HB 53, HB 57, HB 60, HB 90, HB 123, HB 126, HB 131, HB 132, HB 133, HB 150, and HB 202. HR 95 and HCR 8.

SB 12, SB 14, SB 15, SB 43, SB 45, SB 63, SB 64, SB 110, SB 113 and SB 114.

Our veterans served this country proudly and many of us continue to serve our communities in many ways. We all hope that we can get support for all these pieces of legislation.

Thank you,
Terry Stanforth
Fremont, OH

... Continued from Page One

veterans with a range of workforce and employment services needed to meet their employment and training needs. The funds for FY 2023 & 2024 will amount to \$119.5 million.

There is a portion of the GRF that provides subsidies to 13 veteran service organizations (VSOs) that serve Ohio's veterans. These organizations provide services to veterans and their families to help assist with accessing benefits, job placement and training, transportation to and from Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities, and emergency assistance. The subsidies for the 13 VSOs totaled \$5.58 million for FY 2024 & 2025. For the FY 2022-2023 they received \$4.95 million.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS) received a big boost mostly due to a \$65 million appropriation for critical upgrades at Ohio's Veterans Homes for the 2024 fiscal year. The Department is comprised of the four sections. Veterans Services, Ohio Veterans Homes, Veteran Educational Programs, and the Veterans Bonus Program. The funds come from the General Revenue Fund (GRF), Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF), Debt Service Fund (DSF), and Federal (FED). The DVS appropriations will total \$194.97 million for the two years. That is an increase of \$89.9 million over the previous two-year period.

**OHIO LEGISLATIVE REPORT
IS ON FACEBOOK**

Joins us and follow all the actions of
the Ohio General Assembly.

How A Bill Becomes Law

From a simple idea -to a bill -to an act -to a law. These are the steps that are followed in Ohio.

Step 1. INTRODUCTION

Senators put their ideas into writing in the form of a bill. Most of these bills are a direct result of an idea or concern shared by a constituent. Once a bill is drafted, it is introduced and given a unique number. To become law in Ohio, a bill must receive three "considerations" in each chamber of the General Assembly. Introduction of a bill constitutes "first consideration."

Step 2. COMMITTEE PROCESS

Committees are the best forums for thoroughly studying a bill. They give legislators an opportunity to hear from experts and concerned citizens who testify before a committee to express their opinions or make recommendations. Through this process, members may change the bill with alterations called amendments or choose to take no action at all. If a committee recommends a bill be considered by the entire chamber, the bill is voted on and reported by the committee. The referral of a bill to a committee constitutes "second consideration."

Step 3. THE FLOOR

All members have an opportunity to debate and amend a bill when it goes before the entire Senate or House on the floor. When debate on a bill is concluded, the Senate President or the Speaker of the House directs the Clerk of that chamber to call the roll, and members cast their votes. If a bill receives a majority of the votes cast (17 of the 33 votes in the Senate; 50 of the 99 votes in the House), it passes and moves to the other chamber, where a similar process is followed. Consideration of a bill on the floor constitutes "third consideration."

Step 4. CONCURRENCE

If the House makes any changes to a Senate bill, they may vote on whether to concur with the changes. If the Senate does not concur with the House changes, a conference committee made up of members from both chambers meets to reconcile differences between the two versions of the bill. The same process happens if the senate makes changes to a house bill. Once the revised bill is approved by the Senate and the House, the bill becomes an "act" and is sent to the governor.

Step 5. THE GOVERNOR

The governor can sign the act into law or reject it by issuing a veto. A three-fifths vote of the members of the House and Senate is necessary to override the governor's veto. A signed act becomes law after 90 days. If the governor takes no action within 10 days of receiving the act, it becomes law without his or her signature.



HELPFUL LINKS

- OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov
- OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov
- OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov
- OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov
- OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov
- OHIO LAWS:
www.codes.ohio.gov
- OHIO CHANNEL:
www.ohiochannel.org

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically every month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe send your name and email address to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

The Ohio 135th General Assembly is on summer break.

Does that mean nothing gets done? That no one is working on your behalf? The answer to both is yes and no.

Although neither the house nor the senate are holding full sessions, non-voting sessions are still held each week so that new bills can be introduced, and house and senate resolutions adopted. However, the new bills will not be referred to any committees until the general assembly returns. Committees do not hold any hearings so there is no testimony being given.

So, what are your legislators doing during the break? There of course are some who are using a portion of the time for family vacations, but most senators and representatives are spending their time traveling in their districts visiting businesses, meeting with organizations, attending community functions, and of course doing some campaigning. Many legislators are holding district office hours, roundtables, or some sort of meeting to talk with their constituents.

Can you get in touch with your legislators if you need them during the summer break? Yes, you can. In most cases their offices in Columbus are still in full operation. You can call and email the office and communicate with the legislative aides the same as any other time of year. Emails and messages will be forwarded to the legislator. When it comes to connecting with your legislators, it is pretty much business as usual with the possible exception that the lines of communication might be a little slower than normal.

Summer break is an excellent time to meet your legislators and talk with them face to face. Keep an eye on their website, follow them on social media, and read your newspaper. If your legislator has scheduled a meeting for constituents, they will announce it. The *Ohio Legislative Report* facebook page quite often has those announcements posted and for the first time we are including them in this issue (see page 6) and will continue to do that in future issues.

Attend those meetings. Talk with them and find out what they have been doing, what they stand for, and what they are working on. Let them know what you would like to see them do and what you stand for. Legislators like to get your feedback on important issues.

If you do run into your legislator when they are in their district doing veteran or military related things, let us know. Tell us who, what, where, when, and why it happened and if you can get a photo that would be even better. *O.L. Report* wants to let all our readers know what their legislators are doing for veterans. Email all info and photos to oh.leg.report@gmail.com.

There are two elections coming up. A special election on the 8th of this month and the general election on November 7th. There are a couple of very

Continued on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN JULY

HB 242:

Introduced by Representatives Adam C. Miller (District t 6) and Dick Stein (District 54) on July 17th. The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill will enact sections 3333.46, 3333.461, and 3333.462 of the Revised Code to establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds.

HR 221:

Introduced by Representative Bernard Willis (District 74) on July 11th. The resolution was adopted on the same day.

The resolution Honors Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion.

HR 222:

Introduced by Representative Bernard Willis (District 74) on July 11th. The resolution was adopted on the same day.

The resolution honors Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion.

SB 134:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on July 23rd. The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill will amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.065, 4503.066, and 5901.07 of the Revised Code to extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.

SB 140:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on July 27th. The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The Bill will enact section 5534.649 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 149 in Belmont County as the "Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway."

SB 141:

Introduced by Senator Vernon Sykes (District 28) on July 23rd. The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The Bill will enact section 5534.301 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-77 in Akron as the "American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway."

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

**OUT
IN
THE**

DISTRICTS

SENATOR DOLAN ATTENDS SOLDIERS FUNERAL

July 29, 2023

(North Olmsted, Ohio) Senator Matt Dolan (District 24) presented a proclamation from the Ohio General Assembly and an Ohio flag that had flown over the statehouse on July 4th to family members of 1st Lt. George J. "Bud" Rueter during grave side services at Sunset Memorial Park.

Rueter returned home to be buried 80 years after his B-24 Liberator was shot down over Romania on August 1, 1943.



REPRESENTATIVE GROSS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!

 Jennifer Gross
R-West Chester



Future Town Hall Meetings

Where: Fairfield City Council Chambers - 5350 Pleasant Ave. Fairfield, OH 45014

When: Monday, 09/18/2023, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

COFFEE WITH CONSTITUENTS!



MONDAY, AUGUST 21

10AM-12PM

CARROLL COUNTY COFFEE COMPANY
704 CANTON ROAD NW
CARROLLTON, OHIO



STATE REP. MONICA
**ROBB
BLASDEL**

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

If you have news or photos of your state representative or senator doing veteran/military stuff in your district, send it to us.

EMAIL THEM TO:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com



OFFICE HOURS

JOIN REPRESENTATIVE CARRUTHERS TO DISCUSS:

- Constituent Concerns
- My Legislation
- Input on Local Happenings

FRIDAY
September 1
4:40-6:30 p.m.

True West Coffee
313 Main St.
Hamilton, OH 45013

97TH HOUSE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



ADAM HOLMES

The Ohio House of Representatives

Summer Office Hours

Once again, our office has scheduled summer office hours events across the district. Please come visit Rep. Holmes and ask challenging questions, discuss current legislation, and introduce ideas for new legislation.

August 4th - New Concord

New Concord Library
77 W. Main Street, New Concord, OH 43762
11am to 1pm

August 16th - Zanesville

John Mcintire Library
22 N. 5th Street, Zanesville, OH 43701
10am to 12pm

August 24th - Cambridge

Guernsey County Library
63500 Byesville Road, Cambridge, OH 43725
9am to 12pm

OPINIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

O.L. Report is printing with consent of the author a letter sent to the members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

Chairman Hoagland, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and member of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, my name is Ernest Massie and I am the District 11 Commander (Central Ohio area) for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept. of Ohio. As we closed the FY 2024-2025 Budget, and you were hoping to take a nice Summer break, I was hoping to add for your consideration the addition of a third Ohio Veterans home .

As you know, the state currently operates two, one in Sandusky and one in Georgetown. Sandusky is a 427 bed facility and Georgetown is a 168 bed facility. Ohio is currently sixth in terms of veteran population,

we punch above our weight there. with 729,645 veterans (3.8% of the nation's total in 2020), and 346,283 of those are 65 years old or over (47.5%); Veteran Population - National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (va.gov). Veterans tend to want to be treated by the VA, and tend to want to cluster together with folks with shared experiences and with people who have specific knowledge of their needs. Speaking from experience, I was a state employee my entire career, but in my latter years, I chose to use the VA as my health care provider for that single purpose. I have a service connected injury, and they knew just how to treat it and had a holistic approach (all under one single roof) to my medical care.

The federal government (VA) does provide some

Continued on Page Six...

OUR OPINION

Asbestos Bill Is Unfair and Burdensome For Veterans

Senator George F. Lang (District 4) is once again attempting to make it nearly impossible for veterans in Ohio to be able to file an asbestos lawsuit. Senate Bill 63 was originally introduced in the 134th General Assembly as Sente Bill 252. Lang reintroduced it in the 135th General Assembly on February 21st of this year.

The purpose of SB 63 is to curb the practice of over-naming in a lawsuit and while it may be a problem to those companies within the asbestos industry, we feel the problem should not be solved at the expense of Ohio veterans.

The bill, if it were to become law, would require a plaintiff to supply very specific information. The bill mentions over and over that everything required must be very specific. That could be extremely difficult for veterans suffering from asbestos caused diseases.

One of the leading diseases caused by asbestos exposure is mesothelioma. The symptoms of mesothelioma may not begin to show for 30 to 50 years and are quite often misdiagnosed initially. Once diagnosed, life expectancy is only 18-30 months.

The required specific information laid out in SB 63 would be a heavy burden for most veterans. Trying to remember the specifics of the exposure 30 years later is difficult for most, but for veterans who moved from base to base, or ship to ship it would be a monumental task.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters

- Letters with over 200 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

"Politics is about a lot more than winning and losing. I think politics at its best is about compromise, shades of grey and about issues."

-Matt Taibbi

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 To establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 121 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 122 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 134 To extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans
- ◇ SB 140 Designate Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 141 Designate American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway
- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #4 BEARING ARMS; STANDING ARMIES; MILITARY POWERS

Effective: 1851

The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

You can follow, learn, and research every bill as it travels through the Ohio General Assembly.

www.legislature.ohio.gov

... Continued from Page Four

extremely limited long term care, so this is an area where the state can make a difference. By creating a facility in Central Ohio, on the scale of the Sandusky facility, we can provide for our aging veteran population a home for this aging segment of our population. The numbers can tell you (along w/ the Ohio Dept. of Veterans' Services) the wait list for the two facilities we have.

If you are looking for a "bang for the buck", this is it. The cost in the upcoming biennium (from HB 33), if I read it right, for the current two homes, seems to be \$100.3M. But I am sure, creatively there can be ways to find perhaps some donors to the construction process, federal dollars, or other means to assist in the sunk costs. Ohio's population is aging. You must address this sooner, rather than later.

Respectfully,

Ernest C. Massie
District 11 Commander
VFW Dept. of Ohio

... Continued from Page One

important issues that you should be voting on. They are not exactly 'veteran' issues, but they will affect you and I think every veteran has taken a side for each of them. The special election is about Ohio citizens ability to make amendments to the Ohio Constitution. It is Issue No. 1 and it is the only issue on the ballot. The November election will ask voters to decide whether or not to make a change in the Ohio Constitution about abortion.

O.L. Report is encouraging all voters to research the issues and vote for what will be best for all Ohioans based on the facts. We urge you to vote and to vote intelligently. We printed (below) the issue's language for you to study.

2023 OHIO GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

August 8 Special Election Day

Oct 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for General Election

November 7 General Election day

Issue 1

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Elevating the Standards to Qualify for an Initiated Constitutional Amendment and to Pass a Constitutional Amendment

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly

To amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- Require that any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Ohio receive the approval of at least 60 percent of eligible voters voting on the proposed amendment.
- Require that any initiative petition filed on or after January 1, 2024 with the Secretary of State proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio be signed by at least five percent of the electors of each county based on the total vote in the county for governor in the last preceding election.
- Specify that additional signatures may not be added to an initiative petition proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio that is filed with the Secretary of State on or after January 1, 2024 proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

If passed, the amendment will be effective immediately.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.



HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov



Follow us on facebook.

'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

On the 16th of last month, Representative Tracy Richardson (District 86) and Adam Holmes (District 97) introduced legislation that will help disabled veterans cut the amount of property tax they pay. This is what is known as a 'homestead property tax exemption' bill.

Their bill, House Bill 254 is the sixth property tax exemption bill introduced since the start of the 135th general assembly back in January. Each one is different from the others. Is one better than the others? Which one will win out over the others? Will any of them become part of the Ohio Revised Code?

Let's look at each one and see if we can shed some light on them.

Senate Bill 43 was the first and was introduced by Senator Andrew Brenner (District 19) in January. The law at that time allowed totally disabled veterans to be eligible for a property tax credit on their residence. It also allowed the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veterans to retain the eligibility for the exemption as long as they continued to own and occupy the property and did not remarry.

Senator Brenner learned from a constituent of a flaw that denied some surviving spouses of the benefits. If a veteran began the process of applying for the homestead exemption but died before a determination of total disability was made by the VA, the spouse would not be eligible for the exemption. HB 43 corrected that flaw by expanding the legal definition of surviving spouse of a veteran so that it includes the spouse of a veteran that began the process of applying for a homestead exemption but died before the VA issued their determination of total disability.

SB 43 worked its way through both chambers receiving unanimous approval at every step of the way. Governor Mike DeWine signed the act into law and it will take effect at the end of October.

Before discussing the next five bills, let's first see what the current law says about homestead exemptions that pertain to Ohio's veteran property owners.

A veteran 65 years of age or older can qualify for a property tax credit. That 'homestead exemption' equal to the taxes that would be charged on up to \$25,000 of the true value of a home. It should be noted under current law, homeowners who first receive the \$25,000 homestead exemption for tax year 2014 or later (or tax year 2015 for homeowners who pay the manufactured home tax) must have a modified Ohio adjusted gross income of below a certain income threshold, as computed for state income tax purposes (including all business income and excluding Social Security and disability benefits). The threshold was originally \$30,000, but it is indexed to inflation and increases annually – the 2023 threshold is \$36,100. Homeowners who received the homestead exemption before 2014 are not subject to this income limit.

A veteran who is totally disabled or the surviving spouse of a totally

Continued on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN AUGUST

HB 250:

Introduced by Representatives Jessica E. Miranda (District 28) and Tracy M. Richardson (District 86) on August 1st. It will be referred to a committee later this month.

The bill will amend section 3313.6114 of the Revised Code to revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal.

HB 252:

Introduced by Representative Marilyn S. John (District 76) on August 7th.

It will be referred to a committee later this month.

The bill will enact section 5534.963 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 39 in Richland County as the "SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway."

HB 253:

Introduced by Representatives Terrence Upchurch (District 20) and Adam Holmes (District 96) on August 10th.

It will be referred to a committee later this month.

The bill will enact section 5534.646 of the Revised Code to designate portions of United States Routes 42, 68, and 62 as the "Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor."

HB 254:

Introduced by Representative Tracy M. Richardson (District 86) and Adam Holmes (District 96) on August 16th.

It will be referred to a committee later this month.

The bill amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.065, and 4503.066 of the Revised Code to expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.

HR 258:

Introduced by Representative Nick Santucci (District 64) on August 16th.

It was adopted the same day.

The resolution congratulates American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial and salute its members as outstanding citizens

SB 145:

Introduced on August 31st by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20).

It will be referred to a committee later this month.

The bill will enact section 5534.761 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of Refugee Road in Fairfield County as the "Cpl. David A. Johnston Memorial Highway."

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS

REPRESENTATIVE GROSS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!



Future Town Hall Meetings

Where: Fairfield City Council Chambers - 5350 Pleasant Ave. Fairfield, OH 45014

When: Monday, 09/18/2023, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Abrams speaks at Thank A Vet Day

July 22, 2023

Harrison, OH - Representative Cindy Abrams attended the celebration at VFW Post 7570 to help salute veterans during the post's third annual Thank A Vet Day. She offered remarks to the members and their guests as they honored and celebrated their Veterans.



Representatives participate in Hwy dedication

August 23, 2023

Montpelier, OH - A Portion of State Route 107 was named to remember and honor Veterans. On hand for the ceremonies was State Representative James M. Hoops. "This is something that is so important, especially in today's world to remember the veterans, their families, and what they did," Hoops said in his short speech. Also on hand for the ceremonies was US Representative Marcy Kaptur.



United States Navy Veteran, John Collver was recognized for his service with the dedication of an oak tree in front of the Cuyahoga Falls YMCA on July 25th. Representative Bill Roemer (District 31) and Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) thanked Collver for his service. The 97 year old former sailor served as a gunners mate on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Copahoe (CVE-12) in the South Pacific during World War II.



State Senator Al Landis (District 31) was on the stage at the "Legacy Gala—Saluting Those Who Served!" held at MAPS Air Museum in North Canton August 19th. He had the honor of announcing the Legacy of Honor award recipients.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

If you have news or photos of a state representative or senator doing veteran/military stuff in their district, send it to us.

Email photos and all info to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

IN OTHER STATES

New Jersey Says “Don’t Cheat Veterans”

There is a bill before Congress. It is the “Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act.” It is called “GUARD VA Benefits Act”, and many simply call it the “Guard Act.” In the House of Representatives it is H.R. 1139 and in the Senate it is S. 740. The text is the same on both bills. They were introduced in February and March of this year and have been in committees ever since.

It is on the radar of all VSOs and a high priority for the American Legion and the VFW. The National Association of Attorneys General issued a letter on behalf of a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general expressing support for the passage of the legislation. Ohio’s A.G., Dave Yost was among them.

The GUARD VA Benefits Act would if passed reinstate into the already existing law, criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Not willing to wait for congress to act on this legislation, the law makers in New Jersey took the pro active approach and came up with their own piece of legislation to fight the ‘claim sharks’ and protect their veterans. It is S.3292.

Their legislation, signed into law by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy August 25th, will establish standard requirements that must be followed if an individual is seeking compensation for providing assistance or advice to veterans and their families regarding veterans’ benefits.

“Our veterans put their lives on the line in service to our country and have more than earned the benefits for which they and their loved ones are eligible,” said Governor Murphy. “We must protect veterans and their families from unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them by overcharging for assistance with those benefits. This legislation will help ensure these bad actors either follow all applicable federal standards or face the consequences.”

“The VFW thanks the New Jersey Legislature for their bipartisan support of S.3292 which led to today’s action by the Governor on this law making it a violation of the consumer fraud act for persons to receive compensation for advising or assisting, or referring any individual to another person to advise or assist, with any veterans benefits mater, except as is permitted under federal law,” stated Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New Jersey.

OUR OPINION

More Ways To Earn a Diploma Seal Is A Good Idea.

In addition to fulfilling Ohio’s graduation requirements for curriculum and competency, students also must show they are prepared for their next steps after high school. To demonstrate readiness, students must earn at least two seals, one of which must be a state-defined seal. State law created 12 diploma seals for students to demonstrate academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions. Each seal allows students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for future success in their chosen post-high school paths.

A bill to amend section 3313.6114 of the Revised Code was introduced in the House at the start of last month. House Bill 250 seeks to revise the ways to earn the Military Enlistment diploma seal. The Revised Code now requires a student to do either of the following: (a) Providing evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States as defined in section 5910.01 of the Revised Code; or (b) Participating in a junior reserve officer training program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code.

HB 250 would add two more options. The student could earn the seal by: (c) Providing evidence that the student has accepted a scholarship to enter the reserve officer training corps; or (d) Providing evidence that the student has been appointed to a United States military service academy.

The Primary Sponsors of the bill are Representatives Jessica E. Miranda (District 28) and Tracy Richardson (District 86).

Ohio Legislative Report supports House Bill 250 as Veteran Friendly and good for Ohio.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 200 words.
- Letters with over 200 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer’s name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and Their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- ◇ HB 252 Designate "SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway."
- ◇ HB 253 Designate "Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor."
- ◇ HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #4 TRIAL BY JURY

Effective: 1912

The right of trial by jury shall be inviolate, except that, in civil cases, laws may be passed to authorize the rendering of a verdict by the concurrence of not less than three-fourths of the jury.

Ohio Legislative Report is on facebook

... Continued from Page One

disabled veteran can qualify for an 'enhanced exemption' that exempts \$50,000 of the homes value. No income limit applies to the enhanced exemptions.

Now lets go over the five bills and see what each one does.

•House Bill 57: Introduced on February 15th

by Representatives Thomas Hall (District 46) and Steve Demetriou (District 35), HB 57 would adjust for inflation the exemption by multiplying the current year's exemption amount by the percentage increase in the GDP deflator over the preceding year and adding that result to the current exemption amount.



Representatives Hall (l.) and Demetriou at an August 16th press conference about HB 57

No adjustment would be made for any year the GDP deflator does not increase.

•HB 60: Introduced by Representative Daniel P. Troy (District 23) on February 21st, HB 60 increases the \$25,000 homestead exemption to up to \$40,000 of the true value of a home veteran 65 or older. The bill also indexes the amount of this homestead exemption in the same manner that HB 57 does based on the GDP deflator. It does not index the amount of the special \$50,000 enhanced exemptions for totally disabled veterans. Lastly, the bill raises the income eligibility requirement to \$40,000 or less beginning in tax year 2023, or 2024 for manufactured homes.

•HB 90: Introduced March 7th by Representative Thomas F. Patton (District 17), HB 90 expands the enhanced exemption for disabled veterans by increasing the exemption to equal the full value of the veteran's homestead. In essence, the enhanced exemption completely exempts a disabled veteran's home from taxes. As under the current homestead exemption for disabled veterans, the bill's enhanced exemption extends to the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran, until the spouse dies or remarries and the bill's enhanced exemption does not require the disabled veteran to make below a certain income.

House Bill 57 passed on the house floor in May (89 to 0) and is currently in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. HB 60 and HB 90 are both in the House Ways and Means Committee.

The two newest homestead bills are SB 134 and HB 254 and because both were introduced during the summer break, they have not been referred to any committees yet.

•Senate Bill 134: Introduced July 18th by Frank Hoagland (District 30) will reduce property taxes for a disabled veteran who is totally disabled on \$50,000 of the true value of the property or if a disabled veteran has reached the age of 59 or served 20 or more years in the armed forces of the United States, including reserve components thereof, or in the national guard can qualify for a reduction in taxes equal to the percentage of the veteran's disability rating assigned by the VA. This bill would also require applications be accompanied by a letter verifying the veterans VA disability rating or number of years of service from either the VA or a County Veteran Service Officer. Current law requires the accompanying letter to come from the VA.

•House Bill 254: Introduced by Representatives Tracy M. Richardson (District 86) and Adam Holmes (District 97) on the 16th of August this bill would increase the current exemption on \$50,000 to the full value of the home for aqualifying 100% disabled veteran. It would also add an exemption on \$10,000 of the home value for a veteran with a 70% or more disability rating and exemption on \$5,000 of the home value for a veteran with a disability rating of 50% to 70%.

That is the abridged vention of each of the six bills. Veterans must keep in mind there are other qualifying requirements for the bills that pertains to all things veteran such as proof of honorable service. We gave you only the info that will change the current laws should any of these bills pass as introduced. O.L. Report encourages our readers to study each bill and talk to your representative or senator and let them know how you feel about the bills.

You can find information about every bill in the Ohio General Assembly on the websites listed on the front page of every issue.

**OHIO LEGISLATIVE REPORT
IS ON FACEBOOK**

Joins us and follow all the actions of the Ohio General Assembly.

Oct 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for November 7 General Election

November 7 General Election day



HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov



Follow us on facebook.

'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

The 135th Ohio General Assembly returned to work following the summer break and got right down to business. The break begins on the first of July and ends in mid-September. That is two and one-half months.

If you are thinking that it must be nice to have that much vacation time, here is more for you to think about. Come mid-December they will break again and return after the first of the year. They will also get a couple of weeks off again at Easter time.

Let us look at all that 'time off' first and then we will talk about what the Ohio GA has been up to since their return last month.

During the breaks, both chambers are still holding sessions every week, however the members do not conduct all the business they usually carry out. Why is that? Here are the rules of the General Assembly as printed in A Guidebook for Ohio Legislators, printed for the 135th General Assembly by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission:

"Newly elected legislators formally take office when the General Assembly convenes on the first Monday in January in each odd-numbered year (or on the next day if the first Monday is a legal holiday). Each General Assembly meets during a two-year period or biennium that is divided into two annual regular sessions."

Once a General Assembly has convened, neither house may adjourn for more than five consecutive days, excluding Sunday, without the consent of the other house. So, during the breaks, each house meets each week but with a limited number of members and since there is no quorum the business is limited. An example is new bills can be introduced but the members cannot vote on any bills.

Also, during the breaks, there are no committee hearings. When a bill is introduced, it goes to the Rules and Reference Committee who then sends it back with their recommendation for assignment to a standing committee. That means bills introduced during the break bills have to wait until full sessions reconvene following the break.

But even though it is a break, most legislators are still working hard and keeping very busy. They spend their time researching and drafting new bills, holding office hours or town hall meetings in their district, visiting the many businesses and organizations in their district, and dealing with constituent issues. There is also fundraising and campaigning for either themselves or others. And yes, there is even time spent on family vacations for many of them.

Their offices are still open and operating during the break. They still get their emails, and their staffers pass on all phone messages and keep them updated on all activities and business that need to be addressed.

There you have how the breaks work in a very abridged version. Now that the GA is back 'at work', let's talk a little about what happened during the first couple of weeks after returning from break.

We told you that bills can be introduced but they can't be referred to a committee and there are no committee hearings. That means all the bills that were introduced during the summer break were referred to committees in the first week and committee hearings were immediately scheduled.

During the two and a half summer months, there were 24 bills introduced

Continued on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER

SB 152:

Introduced by Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) on September 12th.
It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.651 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 8 in the municipal corporation of Cuyahoga Falls as the "Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway."

HCR 9:

Introduced by Representatives Jennifer Gross (District 45) and Bernard Willis (District 74) on September 12th.
It was referred to the House Homeland Security Committee.

The Concurrent Resolution urges the United States Congress to restore the Department of Defense's superior warfighting principles of recruiting, assigning, training, promoting, and retaining personnel solely based on merit and ensuring such personnel maintain and display a warrior ethos, and to name this resolution the "Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution."

SB 154:

Introduced by Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) on September 13th.
It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The bill will amend sections 122.925, 124.23, 145.30, 742.52, 742.521, 2151.4210, 3307.75, 3309.02, 3313.471, 3319.085, 3511.01, 4731.36, 4743.041, 5747.01, 5903.01, 5903.02, 5907.01, 5907.04, and 5910.01 of the Revised Code to include Space Force in the definition of the armed forces, armed services, and uniformed services of the United States, and to amend the version of section 4743.041 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect December 29, 2023, to continue the change on and after that date.

HB 269:

Introduced by Adam Holmes (District 97) on September 18th.
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.847 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 60 in Muskingum County as the "Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway."

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS

Please join Representative Jennifer Gross
Next Town Hall Meeting in October:

Where: Morgan Township Administrative Building
 3141 Chapel Rd. Okeana, OH 45053
When: Monday, October 23, 2023 from 5:00-6:00 PM



Senator Joins Veterans To Honor Long Missing WWII Airman

September 23, 2023
 Bridgeport, OH -Senator Frank Hoagland (center, in blue jacket) and veterans from all over Ohio paid honor and respect for pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. 1st Lt. Charles G. Reynolds had been missing since his B-25D Mitchell was shot down in New Guinea on November 27, 1943. His remains were identified in July and he was buried with full military honors beside his mother and father.

JOIN US: COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY
 DUBLIN BRANCH, MTG ROOM 2
 75 N HIGH STREET
 DUBLIN, OHIO 43017
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
 4:30-5:30 P.M.



REPRESENTATIVES
ANITA SOMANI AND ADAM MILLER

END OF SUMMER ROUNDTABLE

As summer recess at the Ohio Statehouse comes to an end, enjoy a community discussion on legislative priorities for the end of the year.

Meet local leaders and come prepared with questions or legislative concerns.



LATTES WITH LEGISLATORS

Monday, October 23
 7:30 - 9 a.m.

McKinley Memorial Museum, Niles

YOUNGSTOWN WARREN REGIONAL COUNCIL

NICK SANTUCCI
 District 64 Representative

STEVE DEMETRIOU
 District 35 Representative



Gary Click
 September 1 at 6:47 PM · 🌐

It will always be a highlight of my life to visit The Wall That Heals with one of my heroes, Jerry Widmer. He earned the Purple Heart in Vietnam. On this day we did a pencil rubbing with the names of a couple of his friends who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you to Jerry and all who serve and have served.



Rep. Holmes Helps VFW Post Celebrate 100 Years

August 26, 2023
 Zanesville, Ohio - When Zanesville VFW Post 1058 had celebrated 100 years as a Post they invited some VIPs to help them celebrate. Joining the Post members were Representatives from District and State levels of the VFW, Congressman Troy Balderson, Mayor Donald Mason and State Representative Adam Holmes (seated far left).

Ohio Legislative Report is on facebook

IN OTHER STATES

Illinois Veterans Could be Getting an Improved Homestead Exemption Law

In the September issue of Ohio Legislative Report, we looked at the contents of the seven different veterans homestead exemption bills that are before the Ohio General assembly.

Since then, we received information about a veteran homestead exemption bill that looks very much like it will become law in Illinois. It was passed in both chambers and sent to Governor JB Pritzker for his signature. The legislation would expand the state's current Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption.

This is what the bill, if passed, will do for Illinois veterans. Veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 30% to 50% will have the first \$2,500 in equalized assessed value of the property exempt from taxes. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% to 70% will have the first \$5,000 in equalized assessed value of the property exempt from taxes. Any veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, will be exempt from paying taxes on the first \$250,000 of the equalized assessed value of the property.

The same will apply to the spouse of a deceased veteran who qualified for the above. Also included in the bill is the provision to exempt any World War II veteran from all their property tax regardless of the level of their disability rating.

There are specific requirements that the veteran and/or spouse must meet to qualify for the exemptions. The bill would take effect in the tax year following it becoming law.

Governor Pritzker issued an amendatory veto recommending specific changes to the bill. Those specific changes do not affect any of the homestead exemption for veterans and it is hoped that the General Assembly will agree by accepting the governor's amendatory veto and pass it with his recommended changes.

OUR OPINION

Two Common Sense Bills

Before the General Assembly there are a couple of bills that will help catch Ohio up to the current times. Senate Bill 113 and Senate Bill 154 seem to be nothing more than common sense bills.

Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) introduced SB 113 in April and last month it was unanimously approved by the members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, but the next day a motion to recommit the bill back to the committee was passed on the senate floor.

The passage of this bill will bring Ohio law inline with the federal law that has been in effect since the Thurmond Amendment to the Defense Authorization Act became part of the US Code in 1985. The Thurmond Amendment required registration with the Selective Service Board as a prerequisite for appointment to most federal jobs.

According to the analysis of the Legislative Service Commission's Office of Research and Drafting, anyone who does not register with the selective Service System that is required to would not be able to hold an appointed or elected position with a state agency, public institution, or political subdivision. It also disqualifies them from an initial appointment to employment with a state

Continued on Page Six...

Reflections

The life of a republic lies certainly in the energy, virtue, and intelligence of its citizens."

- Andrew Jackson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 200 words.
- Letters with over 200 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and Their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- ◇ HB 252 Designate SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 253 Designate Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- ◇ HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- ◇ HB 269 Designate Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway

- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial

- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ HCR 9 Adopt Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution

- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 152 Designate Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 154 Include Space Force in armed forces, armed and uniformed service

- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

You can watch live every session of both chambers, all the committee hearings, Governor DeWine's press conferences, and much more on the Ohio Channel.

They are also archived for viewing at a later date.

www.ohiochannel.org

... Continued from Page One

in the senate and 35 in the house. Those 59 bills were referred to committees and added to the bills that were already in each committee. All 59 bills were sent to their respective rules and reference committees whose job it was to read each bill and determine which standing committee each one should go to. They then sent the bills back to their respective houses and in a full session the members voted whether to accept the recommendations of the rules and reference committee or not. Generally speaking, their recommendation would be accepted, and the bills would then be sent to the proper committees.

It then became the duty of each committee chair to look at each bill and fit it into the schedule for hearings. Each bill usually would get three or more hearings. During the first hearing for a bill, the committee would hear testimony from the bill's sponsor. In the second, proponent testimony would be heard and testimony from any opponents would be heard during the third hearing. If further hearing were needed, testimonies would usually be open to proponents, opponents, and interested parties.

The committee members may take several different actions on a bill while it is in their committee. It may report a bill favorably with no changes; adopt amendments and report the bill as an amended bill; redraft the bill or adopt numerous or lengthy amendments and report it as a substitute bill; combine two or more bills into one amended or substitute bill; indefinitely postpone the bill, thereby defeating it; or take no action at all. An affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members is necessary either to report a bill favorably or to postpone it indefinitely.

Once the committee members vote, the bill goes to the clerk of the respective house, and it is filed and then it goes back to the rules and reference committee who consider it for possible floor action.

Before a bill can be passed, become an act

that is sent to the governor for his consideration, and either sign into law or veto, it must pass with a majority vote of the first house, then be sent over to the other house and go through the same process all over again.

It is obvious that there are many steps a bill must take to become a law, and it can be a time-consuming process that can quite often take a long, long time. In the couple of weeks the members of the General Assembly have been back at work, much was completed, but more work is needed in order to fully catch up with what was not accomplished during the previous 2 and a half months.

... Continued from Page Four

agency.

It is plain and simple... If you are required to register with the Selective Service and you don't, you can't work for the state. The same principals have applied to federal jobs since 1985.

For the exact details of the bill, read the text of Senate Bill 113 on The Ohio Legislature website.

We think Senate Bill 154 is also needed to keep the Ohio Revised Code current.

Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) introduced the commonsense bill less than a month ago and it was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee. At this time, it has not been scheduled for a hearing.

This bill, if passed will do one thing. It will add the United States Space Force (USSF) to the definition of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Services, and Uniformed Services in the appropriate sections throughout the Ohio Revised Code.

The USSF became a branch of the United States Armed Forces in December of 2010 and is a part of the Department of the Air Force. It is past time to update the ORC and include the men and women (Guardians) of the USSF.

The O. L. Report supports both bills.

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #6 SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

Effective: 1851

There shall be no slavery in this state; nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

If you have news or photos of a state representative or senator doing veteran/military stuff in their district, send it to us.

Email photos and all info to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com



HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov



Follow us on facebook.

'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

Members of the General Assembly were busy 'veteran bills' during October. There were 12 hearings held on 10 bills before 5 different Committees. Here is a rundown of the bills and the hearings.

Introduced during the summer break and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee in September were Senate Bills 140, 141, 145, and 152. They all head sponsor testimony on October 11th. Except for SB 141 all bills would name a section of Ohio roadways in the memory of an individual service member. SB 141 would name a section of highway in honor of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. None of the bills had a second hearing yet.

Senate Bill 113, introduced by Senator **Frank Hoagland** (District 30) is about the failure to comply with Military Selective Service System. He introduced the bill in April of this year, and it was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee. Testimony was heard in May from Hoagland and two employees of the United States Selective Service System. In September the committee voted to favorably report the bill. However, it was re-referred to the committee and a substitute bill was drafted. On October 11th the sub bill was favorably reported out of committee and on the same day the senate voted 26 to 4 to pass it. Sub SB 113 was introduced into the house on the 12th and referred to the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee on the 24th.



Sen. Hoagland testifying before the Veterans and Public Safety Committee

In the House Representatives **Adam C. Miller** (District 60) and Dick Stein (District 54) introduced House Bill 242 July and it was referred to the House Higher Education Committee where it received three hearing during October. The bill would establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds beginning on July 1, 2025.



Reps. Richardson and Miranda testify Before the Primary and Secondary Education Committee

House Bill 250 was introduced in August by Representatives **Jessica E. Miranda** (District 28) and **Tracy M. Richardson** (District 86) at the beginning of August. In September it was referred to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and the 1st hearing was held. In October a

second hearing for the bill was held. The bill would expand eligibility for the Military Enlistment Seals for high school graduates.

Representative **Marilyn S. John** (District 76) introduced House Bill 252 in

See Happenings on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER

HB 286:

Introduced by Representative Nick Santucci (District 64) on October 2nd.
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.655 of the Revised Code to designate a bridge spanning State Route 11 in Trumbull County as the "Vienna Township Veterans Bridge."

SB 167:

Introduced by Senators Theresa Gavarone (District 2) and Nathan H. Manning (District 13) on October 3rd.
It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.654 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 60 in Erie County as the "Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway."

HB 294:

Introduced by Representatives Brian Lorenz (District 60) and Beth Lear (District 61) on October 10th.
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.653 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-71 in Delaware County as the "Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway."

SB 169:

Introduced by Senator Sandra O'Brien (District 32) on October 11th.
As of November 1st, the bill had not been referred to a committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.658 of the Revised Code to designate a bridge spanning Walnut Creek in Trumbull County as the "Cortland Veterans Memorial Bridge."

HB 299:

Introduced by Representative Don Jones (District 95) on October 18th.
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The Bill would enact section 5534.656 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 7 in Washington County as the "Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway."

HB 310:

Introduced by Representative Don Jones (District 95) on October 30th.
It was referred to the House Pensions Committee.

The bill would amend sections 3307.70, 3307.751, and 3307.752 of the Revised Code regarding purchases of military service credit by State Teachers Retirement System members.

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.



Proclamations to Honor VFW Post Presented

October 7, 2023

Elyria, Ohio - Representative Gayle Manning presented resolutions from the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House to Post Commander, Walter Lijana (I) and Event Chairman, David K. Root during the banquet at Thomas Mihal's Memorial VFW Post 1079. The post was celebrating 100 years of service to veterans and community.



Rep. Adam Miller Assists Flag at Raising

October 27, 2023

Hilliard, Ohio - Prior to the first-round Division I, Region 3 playoff game between Hilliard Davidson and Grove City, members of the American Legion William R Schnug Memorial Post 614 raised the National Flag and Representative Adam Miller was there to offer his assistance.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BERNIE WILLIS

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Representative Bernard Willis will hold a townhall meeting on Wednesday, November 15th at 6 p.m. at Springfield CoHatch.



There was a good turnout for the monthly Veteran Legislative Caucus meeting at the Vern Riffe State Office Tower on Tuesday, October 3rd.

Ohio Legislative Report is on facebook

National Ohio Day

On November 2nd each year we celebrate National Ohio Day in recognition of the founding of Ohio as a state.

But wait! If that is true, than what is the holiday on March 1st that is called Ohio Day? Isn't that to celebrate the founding of Ohio as a state?

To set the confusion straight here is what the Ohio History Connection website says... "In November 1802, thirty-five delegates convened to draft an Ohio state constitution. In order for Ohio to become a state in the United States, representatives of the territory had to submit a constitution to the United States Congress for approval. This was the final requirement under the Northwest Ordinance that Ohio had to meet before becoming a state. Thomas Worthington personally carried the document to

Washington, DC. He arrived on December 19, and formally presented the Constitution to Congress on December 22. The Constitution became law on February 19, 1803, when Congress passed an act stating that the citizens of Ohio had adopted a constitution in accordance with the 1802 Enabling Act and the said state had become one of the United States of America."

- ◆ November 2, 1802: When our constitution was drafted.
- ◆ February 28, 1803: When Congress passed the act that enabled Ohio to become a state.
- ◆ March 1, 1803: The first General Assembly met in Chillicothe to complete the transfer from Territory to State.

IN OTHER STATES

The following bills were passed by the Indiana 123rd General Assembly and signed into law by the governor of Indiana.

Listed are the digest of each bill. To read the full text and follow the actions of the G.A. of each bill go to the Indiana General Assembly website and enter the bill number.

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2023/bills>

Senate Bill 384

Senators Jack Sandlin, Chris Garten, and James Tomes Requires the commission for higher education (CHE) and the Indiana department of veterans' affairs to develop and implement the higher education purple star designation for the following purposes: (1) To recognize postsecondary educational institutions that are supportive and inclusive of veterans and military connected families. (2) To provide veterans and military connected families with enhanced support for pursuing and finishing a degree or postsecondary credential. Provides that the application for a designation must be made available to interested postsecondary educational institutions on the website of the CHE before May 1, 2024.

Signed by the Governor: 04-20-2023

House Bill 1034

Representative Randall Frye

Exempts military pay for members of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard from the individual income tax. (Current law provides an individual income tax exemption for members of a reserve component of the

See States on Page Six...

OUR OPINION

Attrition Will Work, if it is Allowed

First introduced in the last General Assembly and reintroduced at the start of this GA, House Bill 69 would require county veterans' service commissions to include at least two members who served in the military after September 11, 2001 and require one member of each commission to be appointed by the board of county commissioners.

Representative Brian Stewart (District 12) was the sole sponsor of the bill last time, but has teamed up with Representative Bernard Willis (District 74) to be cosponsors of this bill.

We have heard that HB 69 was been amended to remove the requirement that one member be appointed by the board of County Commissioner and that only one member must have served after 9-11. If so that is smart on the part of the representatives but as yet we have not seen and actual draft of the amended bill.

OLR can not get behind this bill because it is unnecessary. It will accomplish nothing.

County Veteran Service Commissions are made up of veterans from local Veteran service Organization. They are appointed by the a judge of the

See Opinion on Page Six...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 200 words.
- Letters with over 200 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

"The bedrock of our democracy is the rule of law and that means we have to have an independent judiciary, judges who can make decisions independent of the political winds that are blowing."

-Caroline Kennedy

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and Their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- ◇ HB 252 Designate SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 253 Designate Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- ◇ HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- ◇ HB 269 Designate Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 286 Designate Vienna Township Veterans Bridge
- ◇ HB 294 Designate Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 299 Designate Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 310 Regards STRS member purchase of military service credit
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ HCR 9 Adopt Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 152 Designate Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway

See *Bills* on Page Six...

Happenings, from Page One

August and it was referred to the House Transportation Committee in September. Representative **Adam Holmes** (District 97) introduced House Bill 269 in September and referred to the Transportation Committee the same month. Both bills would name a section of Ohio's



Rep. Schmidt testifies on HB 268

highway in memory of an Ohio Serviceman who was killed in action. Hearings were held on both bills on October 25th and on October 30th they were favorably reported out of committee.

Another bill that would honor a veteran by naming a portion of highway in his memory is House Bill 268. It was introduced by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (District 62) in September and referred to the House

Transportation Committee. The first hearing was held for it on October 31st.

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #7 RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE; EDUCATION; THE NECESSITY OF RELIGION AND KNOWLEDGE

Effective: 1851

All men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect, or support any place of worship, or maintain any form of worship, against his consent; and no preference shall be given, by law, to any religious society; nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required, as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths and affirmations. Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the general assembly to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction.

Opinion, from Page Four

court of common pleas from the recommendations of the VSOs. The term of office of the five commissioners is five years meaning each year a new commissioner is appointed.

Rep. Stewart pointed out in his testimony before the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee back in March that "just 12% of the Veteran Service Commission slots statewide are filled by a post-9/11 veteran." Rep. Willis agreed and stated that it was "quite simply is not acceptable."

According to an article *The Center Square* published in August of last year, Ohio's Post 9-11 veteran population is 111,617. That is 16.4% of all Ohio veterans.

Many –if not most of those veterans are under the age of 40 and have jobs and families taking up much of their daily lives. They are not ready or willing to 'get involved' in extra activities.

If the VSOs do not have active, involved Post 9-11 members, they do not have Post 9-11 veterans to recommend to the judge. It is simply a case of supply and demand. The supply is not there so VSOs recommend members who are older, no longer have the job or family duties, and are willing to serve.

Solving this problem by changing the system is not the answer. The natural process of attrition will solve it. As each year goes by, more post 9-11 veterans will be able and willing to step forward and fill the positions on the County Veteran Service Commission Boards. At the same time less and less pre 9-11 veterans will be available.

The O. L. Report feels this bill is unwarranted.

States, from Page Four

armed forces of the United States or the national guard for the period the member is mobilized and deployed.) Exempts military pay earned by members of an active component of the armed forces of the United States from the individual income tax. (Current law exempts from the individual income tax the military pay earned by members of the National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces of the United States while serving on active duty.)

Signed by the Governor: 05-01-2023



HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov



Follow us on facebook.

'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

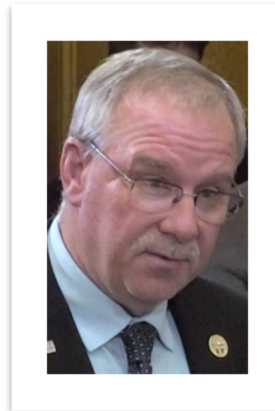
To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

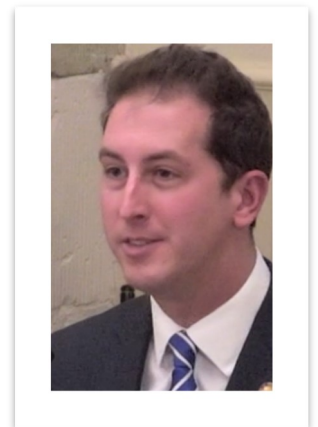
Statehouse Happenings

November hearings began with House Bill 242 in the House Higher Education Committee. It was the fourth hearing for HB 242 and Ranking Member **Joseph A. Miller, III** (District 53) brought forth an amendment which was accepted prior to the committee voting 13-0 to favorably pass the bill. HB 242 was introduced in July but was not referred to committee until after the summer break in September. The Primary sponsors of the bill are Representatives **Adam C. Miller** (District 6) and **Dick Stein** (District 54). The bill would establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds beginning on July 1, 2025.



Rep Jones testifying before the Pensions Committee

The House Pensions Committee held the 1st and 2nd hearings for House Bill 310 which as introduced Representative **Don Jones** (District 95) at the end of October. Jones gave sponsor testimony on the 14th and the committee heard proponent testimony on the 28th when two witnesses offered testimony. According to the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) analysis the bill makes changes to the cost for a State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) member to purchase military service credit.

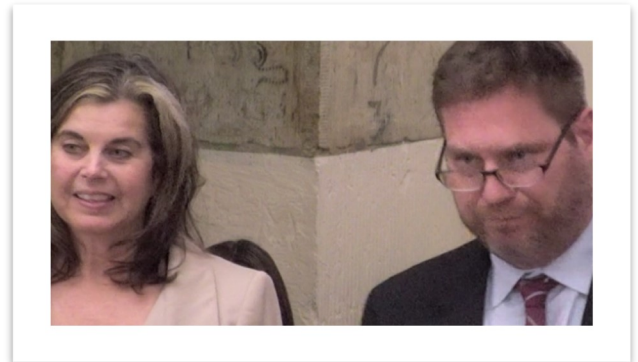


Rep Santucci testifies before the Transportation Committee

On November 14th the House Transportation Committee heard sponsor testimony on two bills that will honor Ohio veterans.

House Bill 286 will name a bridge in Vienna Township, Trumbull County "Vienna Township Veterans Bridge". Following testimony by bill sponsor Representative **Nick Santucci** (District 64) the bill was favorably passed with a unanimous vote (13-0).

Testimony was then heard from Representatives **Brian Lorenz** (District 60) and **Beth Lear** (District 61), the primary sponsors of House Bill 294. The bill will name a portion of Interstate 71 "Delaware County Veterans Memorial Highway". The bill as introduced would apply to the northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate Route 71 between State Route 36 and the



Reps Lear and Lorenz testifying before the Transportation Committee

See Happenings on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER

SB 183:

Introduced by Senator Nickie J Antonio (District 23) on November 1st.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.662 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-90 in Cuyahoga County as the "Lance Corporal James Patrick Rizzo Memorial Highway."

HB 317:

Introduced by Representative Reggie Stoltzfus (District 50) on November 2nd.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.661 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 172 in Stark County as the "Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor."

SCR 8:

Introduced by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20) on November 7th.

It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The resolution would urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Congress to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims.

SCR 9:

Introduced by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20) on November 7th.

It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The resolution would urge the U.S. Congress to support the provision of prompt and comprehensive mental health treatment to military personnel and veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other service-related stress disorders.

HR 302:

Introduced by Representative Nick Santucci (District 64) on November 14th and adopted the same day.

It was referred to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

The resolution commends Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1090 on its One Hundredth Anniversary and salute its members as fine Ohioans.

SB 191:

Introduced by Senator Mark Romanchuk (District 22) on November 21st.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.154 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 39 in Richland County as the "PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway."

HB 335:

Introduced by Representative DJ Swearingen (District 89) on the November 21st.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.663 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 163 in Ottawa County as the "Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway."

HR 316:

Introduced by Representatives Daniel P Troy (District 23) and Jamie Callender (District 57) on November 28th and adopted the same day.

It was referred to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

The resolution congratulates Jay Wilson American Legion Post 112 on its Centennial and salute its members as outstanding citizens.

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



November 11, 2023
 State Representative Cindy Abrams (*back row center in red sweater*) was guest speaker at the Veterans Day Luncheon held by Harrison VFW Post 7570.



November 12, 2023
 State Senator Al Landis (*far right*) attended the R.E.A.L. Veterans Reception at St. John's United Church of Christ Fourth & Faith in Dover.



November 10, 2023
 State Representative Sara Carruthers (District 47) attended the Butler County Veterans Day Program



November 13, 2023
 State Representative DJ Swearingen (*2nd from right*) was a speaker at the Ohio Veteran's Home in Sandusky during their 135th anniversary celebration.



November 11, 2023
 State Representative Thomas Hall (*far left at the wall*) speaking during Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Woodside Cemetery in Middletown.



November 11, 2023
 State Representative Daniel P. Troy (*far right*) participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony put on by the Lakeland Community College.



November 11, 2-23
 State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (*2nd from right*) attended the Ney American Legion Post 680 Buckeye Boy's State and Girl's State recognition Dinner.

More on Page Four...

More... *District Activities*



November 10, 2023
State Representative Steve Demetriou (*with mic*) leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Day Program at Kenston Middle School.



November 11, 2023
State Senator Theresa Gavarone (*at lectern*) was keynote speaker at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky during the annual Veterans Day Program.

If you see your Ohio legislator doing 'veteran or military things' get a picture of them and send it to us with all the information so we can put it in Ohio Legislative Report.

Email everything to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com



November 8, 2023
State Representative Sean Brennan (*r*) was presented a special certificate for his support of veterans and their families from the Parma Area Senior Veterans during their Special Veterans Day Tribute.

Ohio Legislative Report is on facebook

Reflections

"The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government."

-George Washington

Ohio Legislative Report
Wishes all our readers an joyous
holiday season. My it find you
and your family happy, healthy,
and safe.

Happy Holidays

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and Their Families

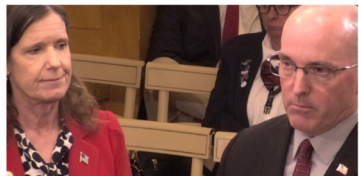
- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- ◇ HB 252 Designate SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 253 Designate Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- ◇ HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- ◇ HB 269 Designate Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 286 Designate Vienna Township Veterans Bridge
- ◇ HB 294 Designate Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 299 Designate Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 310 Regards STRS member purchase of military service credit
- ◇ HB 317 Designate Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor
- ◇ HB 335 Designate Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 302 Honoring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1090 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 316 Honoring Jay Wilson American Legion Post 112 on its Centennial
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ HCR 9 Adopt Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program

See *Bills* on Page Six...

Happenings, from Page One

border of Delaware and Morrow Counties, in Delaware County. The sponsors asked that the bill be amended on the recommendation of veterans in Delaware County to apply to the entire section of I-71 which is within the boundaries of Delaware County. The amended bill was then favorably passed with a vote of 13 to 0.

The House Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on House Bill 254 on the 14th and again on the 28th. The bill, introduced by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (District 86) and **Adam Holmes** (District 97) would enhance and expand



Reps Richardson & Holmes testify before Ways and Means Committee

a property tax reduction for certain homeowners who are disabled veterans. Veterans rated at 100% disabled would be exempt on the full taxable value of their homestead. A veteran who has received a disability rating of greater than 70% but less than 100% qualifies for an exemption equal to \$10,000 of their homestead's value. A veteran who has received a disability rating of at least 50% and up to 70% qualifies for an exemption equal to \$5,000 of the homestead's value according to the LSC analysis.

The hearing on the 17th was from the sponsors and the bill's 2nd hearing on the 28th was proponent testimony which was heard from members of the DAV, AMVETS, VFW, and several other veteran organizations.

Over on the Senate side, the Senate Veteran and Public Safety Committee heard testimony on the 14th for Senate Bill 154. It was the first hearing so the testimony was from the bill's primary sponsor, Senator **Kristina Roegner** (District 27).

SB 154 will simply bring the Ohio Revised Code up to date by including the United States Space Forces. According to the LSC analysis, it updates the definitions of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Services, and Uniformed Services throughout the Revised Code to include the U.S. Space Force.

On the 15th the Senate Insurance Committee held the 6th hearing for Senate Bill 63 which was introduced by Senator **George Lang** (District 4) in February. The LSC analysis states that under the bill,

testimony on House Bill 254 on the 14th and again on the 28th. The bill, introduced by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (District 86) and **Adam Holmes** (District 97) would enhance and expand



Sen Roegner testifying on SB 154

"within 30 days of filing any complaint, a plaintiff in any tort action who is alleging an asbestos claim must file a sworn statement signed by the plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each asbestos claim against each defendant in the action."

An amendment was first voted on and it was defeated before the bill was favorably passed out of committee with a split vote of 7 to 6.

Bills, from Page Five

- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 152 Designate Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 154 Include Space Force in armed forces, armed and uniformed service
- ◇ SB 167 Designate Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway
- ◇ SB 169 Designate Cortland Veterans Memorial Bridge
- ◇ SB 183 Designate Lance Corporal James Patrick Rizzo Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 191 Designate PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway

- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

- ◇ SCR 8 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
- ◇ SCR 9 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #8 WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Effective: 1851

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety require it.