

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

prepared by Sheri Heffelfinger, Researcher
for the **State Administration, Public Retirement Systems, and
Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAIC)**

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Veterans' Burial Issues

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| 1995 | Session | committee bill to help counties meet cost of \$70 headstones, county to pay first \$30, state to pay difference |
| 1997 | Session | \$10,000 appropriation from veterans' license plate fees for Eastern Montana Veterans' Cemetery |
| 1999 | Session | committee bill to clarify original intent of the 1995 bill on headstone costs, and other provisions related to burial of veterans |

Veterans' Nursing Home Issues

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| 1993-94 | Interim | assessed and monitored need and progress on building a second state veteran nursing home in Glendive |
| 1995-96 | Interim | examined cost and per diem rates for a nursing home bed in Columbia Falls and Glendive nursing homes |
| 1997-98 | Interim | reviewed changing characteristics of veteran nursing home population and special needs for treatment of Alzheimer, acute alcoholism, mental health |

Veterans Housing Issues

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| 1995 | Session | study resolution urging the Department of Commerce to examine housing issues for veterans, urging department to include a variable for tracking veterans' needs in its survey, urging development of programs to help meet veterans' special needs
(Report published October of 1996) |
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VA Benefit Issues

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| 1995-96 Interim | letter opposing VA proposal to consolidate Helena's regional VA administration with Phoenix and Sioux Falls |
| 1997-98 Interim | monitored Helena VA's benefit administration, changes, and other services |

Veterans' Preference

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| 1995-1996 Interim | letter to governor urging state agencies to comply with veterans' preference laws |
| 1997 Session | Rep. Pavlovich's bill to strengthen preference laws, tabled |
| 1999 Session | committee bill strengthening preference laws, passed |

National Guard Issues

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| 1998 Session | Committee bill to allow tuition and fee waivers at universities for surviving dependents of Guardmember killed on state duty

Committee bill to allow Department of Military Affairs to administer a scholarship program for students joining the National Guard, tuition and fee waiver discretionary for Board of Regents |
| 1999 Session | Committee bill for special license plates for National Guard veterans as well as for Legion of Valor members |

Other Issues

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| 1995-1996 Interim | Monitored and responded to federal tobacco regulation issues |
| 1995-1996 Interim | Responded to concerns about state residency requirements for Director's position for Veterans' Employment and Training |
| 1999 Session | Supported HB2 general funding for \$66,000 to National WWII Memorial (\$1 donation for each Montanan who served in WWII)

Committee bill to provide resident or nonresident Legion of Valor members with a conservation fishing license |