

## Veteran's Affairs

### LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

**Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.**

---

### Background Materials and Research

#### Topic Summary:

Montana provides many services to veterans and maintains a board of veteran's affairs, provided in [2-15-1205, MCA](#), to oversee the implementation of services. [Title 10, chapter 2, MCA](#) contains most statutory information related to veterans, including the duties of the veterans' affairs board, employment preferences and benefits, veterans' health benefits, Montana Veterans' Homes, and how the state accepts federal funds to be used for veterans' services.

#### Legislative Services Division Materials:

[MT Board of Veterans' Affairs Overview](#) – 2017

[Veteran Population in Montana](#) – 2014

[Montana State Veteran's Homes Audit](#) - 2013

[Analysis of Statutes Governing Montana Veterans Affairs](#) - 2001

### Introduced Legislation

\*Chapter number assigned means bill was passed and approved.

**2017**

[HB 117](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL ENTITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VETERAN SUICIDE

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES; AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

[HB 224](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS EXTENDS TO PROPERTY RENTED, LEASED, OR USED BY THE ORGANIZATION; AMENDING SECTION 15-6-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE.

[HB 259](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PREFERENCE UNDER THE BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR MONTANA VETERANS' BUSINESS STARTUPS; ALLOWING GRANTS OR LOANS TO BE USED AS EQUITY FOR MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDING; EXTENDING RULEMAKING; AMENDING SECTIONS 90-1-201 AND 90-1-204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

[HB 260](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE VETERAN HOME LOAN PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR A VETERAN MEMBER AND A MEMBER FAMILIAR WITH INDIAN HOUSING ISSUES ON THE BOARD OF HOUSING; CREATING INCENTIVES FOR LENDERS TO VETERANS LIVING ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-15-1814 AND 90-6-605, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

[HB 308](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT CREATING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYERS OF REGISTERED APPRENTICES, INCLUDING AN INCREASED CREDIT FOR EMPLOYING VETERANS; PROVIDING THAT THE CREDITS BE TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX AND CORPORATE INCOME TAX LIABILITIES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-2618 AND 15-31-511, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.

[HB 596](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS; REVISING PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE, MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, AND HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN VETERANS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 15-6-301, 61-3-460, 87-2-815, AND 87-2-816, MCA."

[HB 641](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STATE GRANT FOR A RAVALLI COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

[SB 303](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REVISING THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME LOAN MORTGAGE PROGRAM ACT; PROVIDING THAT ELIGIBLE VETERANS MAY USE THEIR MINIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD PAYING CLOSING COSTS UNDER THE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 90-6-604, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.

**2015**

[HB 53](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE PROHIBITION ON PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURERS

PROVIDING DISCOUNTS OR REBATES; AMENDING SECTION 33-18-210, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[HB 459](#) – Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A STATE VETERANS' HOME TO ADMIT PARENTS OF VETERANS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING; AMENDING SECTIONS 10-2-401 AND 10-2-403, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

[HB 493](#) – Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTANA FACILITY FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPPING OF THE VETERANS' HOME IN SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA PENDING RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVES AND THE PAYMENT OF COSTS OF THE FINANCING; AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF STATE DEBT; AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL LIMITED OBLIGATION TO THE DEPARTMENT; APPROPRIATING THE LOAN PROCEEDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VETERANS' HOME IN SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE OBLIGATION FROM CIGARETTE TAX REVENUES; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-11-119 AND 17-7-502, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 5, CHAPTER 324, LAWS OF 2011; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

[HB 637](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYERS OF REGISTERED APPRENTICES, INCLUDING AN INCREASED CREDIT FOR EMPLOYING NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE, OR ACTIVE DUTY VETERANS; PROVIDING THAT THE CREDITS BE TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX AND CORPORATION LICENSE TAX LIABILITIES; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

[SB 380](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE PERMANENT COAL TAX TRUST FUND FOR THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME LOAN MORTGAGE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-6-308 AND 90-6-603, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

## 2013

[HB 153](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING TAX CREDITS TO AN EMPLOYER FOR EMPLOYING AND RETAINING A VETERAN NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE, OR ACTIVE DUTY VETERANS; PROVIDING THAT THE CREDITS BE TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX AND CORPORATION LICENSE TAX LIABILITIES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE ~~AND~~ A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE, AND A TERMINATION DATE."

[HB 626](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT BY INCREASING THE PERCENTAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLE REVENUE DEPOSITED IN THE STATE GENERAL FUND TO BE ALLOCATED TO VETERANS' ACCOUNTS; AMENDING SECTION 15-1-122, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[SB 136](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE PERMANENT COAL TAX TRUST FUND FOR THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME LOAN MORTGAGE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-6-308 AND 90-6-603, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**2011**

[HB 293](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS EXTENDS TO LAND OWNED BY THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1960; AMENDING SECTION 15-6-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE.

[SB 359](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND VETERANS' JOB TRAINING ACT; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT; ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE ~~TRUCK DRIVER~~ TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

**2009**

[HB 213](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA STATE VETERANS' HOME IN BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE, JEFFERSON, MADISON, POWELL, OR SILVER BOW COUNTY; ESTABLISHING A SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE; ALLOCATING A PORTION OF CIGARETTE TAX MONEY TO AN ACCOUNT FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA STATE VETERANS' HOME SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE 62ND LEGISLATURE; AMENDING SECTIONS 10-2-401, 10-2-416, 16-11-119, 53-1-402, 53-1-413, 53-1-602, AND 53-6-1201, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

[HB 296](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT RELATING TO THE SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA VETERANS' HOME; EXTENDING CIGARETTE TAX REVENUE CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN ACCOUNT FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA VETERANS' HOME; ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA VETERANS' HOME CAPITAL PROJECT; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE APPROPRIATION; AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR A TRANSFER OF MONEY TO THE GENERAL FUND; AMENDING SECTION 16-11-119, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

[HB 565](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MONTANA VETERANS SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STATE PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS ~~AND OTHER COSTS~~ FOR 6 MONTHS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PAYABLE BY MONTANA VETERANS UNDER THE FEDERAL TRICARE RESERVE SELECT PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 10-1-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

[HB 595](#) – Died in Standing Committee -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE LOW-INCOME TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS; AND AMENDING SECTION 69-3-1002, MCA."