

# 2019 Idaho Legislative Session Veterans Legislation

| Bill No                | Description                            | Statement of Purpose   | Last Action  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| <a href="#">H0062</a>  | Occupancy tax relief                   | This legislation amends Idaho Code Section 63-317, and portions of Title 63, Chapter 7, Idaho Code, to apply existing circuit breaker and disabled veterans residential property tax exemptions to the occupancy tax, and to require that residential property owners be notified of their right to apply for these exemptions. Newly constructed and occupied residential property is not subject to property taxes during the year of construction. It is, instead, subject to the occupancy tax. Although circuit breaker and disabled veterans exemptions are applicable to residential property taxes, current law does not make them applicable to the occupancy tax. This legislation corrects this oversight.  | 02/20/2019 House - Reported Signed by Governor on February 20, 2019                |
| <a href="#">H0089</a>  | Medal of honor highway designation     | As part of a national State effort to designate a single route across America as a reminder of those who's service to our nation was so remarkable that they were awarded the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, Highway/Route 20 is designated as the targeted national route. Idaho's portion of U.S. Highway 20 begins near Parma, Idaho, and ends at the Idaho state line at the Continental Divide/Targhee Pass entering Montana west of West Yellowstone. This route shall also be known as the Idaho Medal of Honor Highway, honoring current and future Medal of Honor recipients. Highway Route 20 starts in Newport, OR and ends in Boston, MA.   | 03/08/2019 House - Reported Signed by Governor on March 8, 2019                    |
| <a href="#">H0143</a>  | Occupational licensing reform act      | This legislation, relating to occupational licensing reform, will improve access, mobility, and portability to licensed occupations for military families and veterans by recognizing applicable military experience, expediting applications, and endorsement of current licenses held in other states, districts, or territories.  | 02/13/2019 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Business                       |
| <a href="#">H0186</a>  | Appropriations, IDVS, change to FY2019 | This is an FY 2019 supplemental appropriation bill for the Division of Veterans Services. It provides an additional appropriation of \$800,000 for the architecture and design costs to construct a fourth veterans home in Post Falls, Idaho. The bill also realigns the division's appropriation by reducing the dedicated funds and increasing the federal funds to align with anticipated revenues.  | 03/18/2019 House - Reported Signed by Governor on March 18, 2019                   |
| <a href="#">H0211</a>  | Appropriations, IDVS, FY2020           | This is the FY 2020 original appropriation bill for the Division of Veterans Services. It appropriates a total of \$78,592,100 and caps the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions at 344.00. For benefit costs, the bill maintains the current appropriated amount for health insurance at \$11,650 per eligible FTP; provides a 5.5% increase for the employer's share of PERSI contributions; and provides other benefit adjustments. For statewide cost allocation, \$98,800 is provided. The bill also provides funding for the equivalent of a 3% change in employee compensation for permanent employees, with a minimum increase of \$550 for each employee and the remaining amount to be distributed based on merit. Funding for a 3% upward shift in the compensation schedule is also included. The bill funds seven line items: \$871,100 to address staff market equity; \$551,900 for three additional staff positions; \$103,300 for new capital outlay items; \$200,000 for changes in Medicaid billings; \$100,000 for veterans recognition grants; \$42,223,400 for a fourth veterans home in Post Falls; and \$307,200 for the Governor's technology initiatives. The bill also allows for cash transfers for the new veterans home and re-appropriation authority for the cemetery in Blackfoot.   | 03/18/2019 House - Reported Signed by Governor on March 18, 2019                   |
| <a href="#">H0248</a>  | Occupational licensing reform act      | This legislation, relating to occupational licensing reform, will improve access, mobility, and portability to licensed occupations for military families and veterans by recognizing applicable military experience, expediting applications, and endorsement of current licenses held in other states, districts, or territories.  | 04/03/2019 House - Reported Signed by Governor on April 3, 2019                    |
| <a href="#">HJM007</a> | Veterans, fertility treatment          | This memorial asks that the United States Congress act to include fertility treatments as covered benefits for veterans and their spouses with a service-connected disability resulting in an inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.   | 03/15/2019 House - Delivered to Secretary of State at 10:14 a.m. on March 15, 2019 |
| <a href="#">S1079</a>  | Veterans, financial relief             | This statutory amendment allows the Idaho Division of Veterans Services the ability to offer emergency relief grants to all eligible Idaho destitute veterans and their dependents instead of only those destitute veterans who come under the classifications of disabled or wartime. Based on current eligibility and classification criteria, no veterans were eligible for an emergency relief grant in FY2018 and only \$6,000 was granted in FY2017.   | 03/21/2019 Senate - Signed by Governor on 03/21/19                                 |
| <a href="#">S1080</a>  | Veterans recognition income fund       | In 2013, legislation was created setting up two funds to solely benefit veterans in Idaho. The Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund was established from moneys appropriated by excess revenues maintained by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (Section 65-702, Idaho Code). The intent of this fund was to safeguard these reserves, at a higher mid-term holding earning rate, so that they are available to support the initial construction costs of a second cemetery and fourth veterans nursing home without the use of the general funds. The second fund, identified as the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund (Section 65-704, Idaho Code), consists of monies transferred from the Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund. It was the intent of the Legislature that the interest and earnings from the moneys in the Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund be annually transferred to the Income Fund to be used to fund programs operated both within and outside state and local government that are in support Idaho Veterans of the armed forces of the United States through the means of providing grant opportunities as provided in IDAPA Rule 21.01.08. While the Division of Veterans Services maintains the higher interest and investment earnings generated by such moneys in the Veterans Recognition Fund, the lower interest rate generated by the short-term holdings in the Veterans Recognition Income Fund is currently swept to the General Fund. This legislation permits the short-term holdings in the Veterans Recognition Income Fund to also be used solely to benefit Idaho veterans. | 03/21/2019 Senate - Signed by Governor on 03/21/19                                 |
| <a href="#">S1081</a>  | Wheelchair-bound veterans              | This legislation will remove this Transportation of Wheelchair-Bound Veterans Fund Grant Program (Section 65-208, Idaho Code). In past years, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (IDVS) has only been able to offer the Program services to a limited number of Veterans located in the Treasure Valley. During the 2017 legislative session, IDVS received legislative approval to enter into agreements with transportation vendors to provide the transportation services to eligible wheelchair confined Veterans. The intent was to leverage the \$7,000 appropriation with existing services, however, IDVS has since found that there are currently transportation resources now available for wheelchair-bound Veterans that were not previously available in 2017. As such, this action will not impact any of the Veterans previously served. IDVS has, and will continue to, successfully refer Veterans over to one of the other transportation resources.  | 03/21/2019 Senate - Signed by Governor on 03/21/19                                 |
| <a href="#">S1088</a>  | Free permits, tags, veterans           | This statutory amendment directs the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (IDVS) to screen applicants for the five big game tags allocated to disabled Veterans to ensure the most deserving are prioritized for those tags. Two of the tags will be allocated to a hunt designated by IDVS while the remaining three tags will be designated by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.  | 03/25/2019 Senate - Signed by Governor on 03/25/19                                 |
| <a href="#">SCR101</a> | American legion, centennial year       | The American Legion is the largest Veterans' Service Organization in the United States with more than 2,000,000 members. Idaho's American Legion Posts signify our state's recognition of so many dedicated men and women who have served our country, and Idaho, so bravely. This Resolution specifically commemorates Idaho's 99 American Legion Posts and members throughout our state.   | 02/21/2019 Senate - Reported delivered to the Secretary of State on 02/21/19       |