



State of Nevada Veterans Legislative Summit

January 26, 2019

Washoe County Senior Center

Reno, Nevada

Agenda

- A “Look-Back” at Veterans’ Legislation
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS)
 - United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC)
 - State Legislators
- The 2018 Veterans Legislative Symposia Results
- Commission and Committee Recommendations
- NDVS Bills and Budget
- Other Veteran and Military Legislation
- How to Participate in the Legislative Process as an Unpaid Lobbyist
- The 2019 State of Nevada Legislative Calendar

Recent History of Veterans Legislation

1. There has been a marked increase in successful veterans legislation since 2011:

Year	Session	Symposium Issues Identified	Legislation Considered	Legislation Passed
2011	76	Unknown	11	6
2013	77	8	15	10
2015	78	55	32	21
2017	79	37	29	26
2019	80	53	TBD	TBD

2. Examples of legislation passed in 2015 and 2017 include:

- \$50 Million for the construction of the NNSVH
- Survivors' Tax Exemption on sales taxes for family of NV NG members KIA
- Tax deduction for employers who hire unemployed veterans
- Office of Military Legal Assistance within the Office of the Attorney General
- Expanded exemption of college tuition
- Suicide prevention training for health care professionals at regular intervals
- Mandatory interviews for certain veterans applying for State of Nevada positions
- Required state licensing boards to develop reciprocity opportunities for veterans
- Prohibited the foreclosure of a military service member's residential mortgage loan, etc. when deployed or relocated up to 1 year after active duty

Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS)

- For decades NDVS has conducted veteran's legislative forums to help coordinate the activities of veterans service organizations participating in the legislative process. The authority for these activities resides in NRS 417.090 1(d): The Director shall coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.
- Forums NDVS conducts or supports include: Veterans Legislative Symposia, Veterans Legislative Summits, and the Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature.
- NDVS can advocate for bills and budgets approved by the Governor during a legislative session. For other Bill Draft Requests and budgets, NDVS provides information on the affect and fiscal impact, rather than "lobbying" in support of non Executive Branch proposals.

United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC)

- Created to present a formidable unified voice for Veterans, Military, and our families, to find, identify, and lobby for legislative action
- Operates under a Constitution, and Roberts Rules of Order
- Consists of every veteran organization in Nevada, and membership is free to all Veterans; UVLC Leadership is elected among its members every 2 years.
- Partner with NDVS to identify issues, and help resolve them through our organizations
- NOT registered as a nonprofit with the Secretary of State, or IRS, and NO treasury
- We are absolutely non-partisan. As such, all political parties respect our perspective and generally support our viewpoint. **We talk issues, not politics**

Our track record displays this very proudly. Every Veterans Organization in Nevada is represented, so as we lobby, we can proudly state for the record how many Veterans we represent. At present count that is around 300,000. That does not count the Military, or any of our families, or Veteran Advocates, so the number is exponentially much larger, nearing 500,000

Objectively our job is to be a resource for lawmakers and provide guidance needed to make sound decisions regarding Veterans issues

The Role of the Legislator— *and How to Effectively Engage Them*

- Senator Julia Ratti
- Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
- Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
- Mr. Keith Hightower, Office of the Governor
- Congressional Delegation Representatives



2019 Legislative Symposia Themes

- **STATE-WIDE THEME 1:** Honor and recognize veteran's service by reducing certain state fees and taxes
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 2:** Increase veteran service officer and veteran outreach capacity
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 3:** Support veteran employment
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 4:** Expand suicide prevention support and education
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 5:** Support veterans housing initiatives
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 6:** Enhance connection to veteran benefits
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 7:** Honoring veterans services
- **STATE-WIDE THEME 8:** Support veterans courts



Commission & Committee Recommendations

The Nevada Veterans Services Commission

- 1: Concurrent resolution to honor Nevada's Fallen
- 2: Pursue activities in support of reducing suicide among Nevada's veterans
- 3: Improve outreach to rural, Native American, and incarcerated veterans
- 4: **Pursue water-wise options at State Veterans Cemeteries**
- 5: Determine if there are gaps in services for student veterans
- 6: Continue training veterans advocates and service officers
- 7: Support state agency input of veteran data into the Veterans Information System
- 8: Determine if Nevada veteran graduates are fully employed with a livable wage six months after graduation
- 9: Consider offering a week-end burial option at Nevada State Veterans Cemeteries
10. Continue funding the Adopt a Vet Dental Care Program
11. Continue operation of the Veterans in Care (VIC) Program
12. **Continue modernization at the Southern NV. State Veterans Home in Boulder City**
13. Provide VSO support throughout Nevada, especially in rural Nevada
14. Pursue options to improve support to caregivers of Nevada's veterans
15. Reclassify the Women Veterans Coordinator to a Women Veterans VSO position

Commission & Committee Recommendations

The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs

- 1: Create a Veteran Networking Group to spur recruitment, retention, and engagement
- 2: Require state departments / agencies to submit all information regarding programs, events, and services relating to service members, veterans, and families to Nevada VetNet
- 3: Encourage the ICVA to establish a Master Service Agreement between ICVA members detailing responsibilities for information sharing (to include the NV Veterans Information System), programmatic collaboration, and the use of facilities for outreach events
- 4: Encourage the Nevada National Guard (NNG) to establish a data sharing agreement with the NV Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to allow DPBH to synthesize survey data and analyze suicide ideology among NNG service members
- 5: Require NV Department of Corrections to work with the NV Department of Veteran Services and the US Department of Veteran Affairs to develop intake/exit questionnaires to identify eligibility and services available to incarcerated veterans while serving and on release
- 6: Support and promote military culture and veteran awareness training to medical providers and service providers, when eligible this training should be awarded continuing education credits by the respective licensing boards
- 7: Create a public service announcement on the needs of veterans, specifically, focusing on the resilience of veterans who may have been suffering from mental health issues in the community
- 8: Increase awareness on the Standardized Care of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families for Public and Private Providers as provided by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- 9: Explore peer-to-peer approaches to Service Members, Veterans and their Families

Commission & Committee Recommendations

The NV Women Veterans Advisory Committee

- 1: Add a Women Veterans training module in the online training for Nevada Veterans Advocates and the Nevada Veterans Service Officers
- 2: Continue to implement its Veterans Information System (VIS) database, increase data input to better identify Veterans, and continue to seek funding to fund the continued administration of the VIS
3. Develop a database of Veteran resources to share with 2-1-1 Nevada
- 4: Support efforts to conduct Military Sexual Trauma workshops, educating Women Veterans, supporters, caretakers, and healthcare professionals
- 5: Support the Veterans Unit of NDOC Re-entry Department to prepare them for established re-entry into the community
- 6: Recommend NDVS reclassify the Women Veterans Coordinator/Rover position to a Veterans Services Officer/Women Veterans Coordinator position
- 7: Recommend NDVS be allowed to hire two additional Veterans Services Officers (VSO) to be located in Pahrump and Fallon

Commission & Committee Recommendations

Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs

1. Amend NRS 284.015 to remove the requirement that the meaning ascribed to “veteran” includes being a resident of Nevada. This proposal relates to AB 309 (2017) to provide that both in-state and out-of-state veterans who submit an application for state employment will receive ten additional points to the passing grade. This would make the provisions consistent between veterans and the widow or widower of a person killed in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. **(BDR 23–162)**
2. Create a workforce development program where eligible veterans who have completed an undergraduate degree and have remaining federal benefits would be authorized to use the remaining federal benefits toward a postgraduate degree and have the remaining costs waived. In return for the waiver of fees, the eligible veteran would be required to seek a postgraduate degree in a science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEM) critical need occupation field as determined by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR); *and*
3. Make appropriations in the amount of \$250,000 from the State General Fund in each fiscal year (FY) of the 2019–2021 Biennium to support the Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD). **(BDR –168)**

NDVS & NNG Agency Bills and Budget

- AB 11: Revises provisions governing the duties of the Director of NDVS & Co Coordinators of Services for Veterans
- AB 12: Revises provisions to clarify and update obsolete provisions relating to Veterans Services
- AB 13: Revises provisions granting the duties of the Director relating to the administration of Veterans' Homes and other facilities for veterans
- AB 28: Revises provisions governing the evidence satisfactory to declare status as veteran on an instruction permit or driver's license
- SB 16: Revises provisions governing the deposit and use of money received from federal grants and other money
- AB 37: Revises provisions governing punishment of members of the Nevada National Guard for minor misconduct

Assembly Bill 11

(Director Duties and Language Corrections)



Changes NRS 417 (Veterans Services) to:

- Replace phrases "military and naval forces/service" with "Armed Forces"
- Revise provisions governing claims prepared, submitted and presented by the Director of the Department of Veterans Services
- Remove the requirement that the Director pay a portion of the operating costs of a county veterans coordinator
- Require the Director to provide training and certification to county veterans service officers
- Require the Director to establish, operate and maintain veterans' cemeteries in this State
- Require the Director to establish, manage, maintain and operate veterans' homes in this State
- Require the Director to serve as the primary public advocate (state) for Nevada veterans

Assembly Bill 12

Changes NRS 417 (Veterans Services) to:

- Replace, “regulatory authority,” with the authority to “adopt policies and procedures”
- Clarify scope of reporting VSO and outreach activities; revision states that NDVS will only report NDVS VSO and outreach activities
- Revise the requirements a person must possess to be appointed the Deputy Director for Health and Wellness of the Department from “administration,” to, “health care administration”
- Remove specific programming details from the NDVS LGBTQ program that are transient in nature (statutory requirement for the program remains)
- Remove requirements for the locations at which meetings of the Veterans Services Commission must be held
- Remove language discussing the use of volunteers for veterans cemetery grounds keeping operations



Assembly Bill 13

Changes NRS 417 (Veterans Services) to:

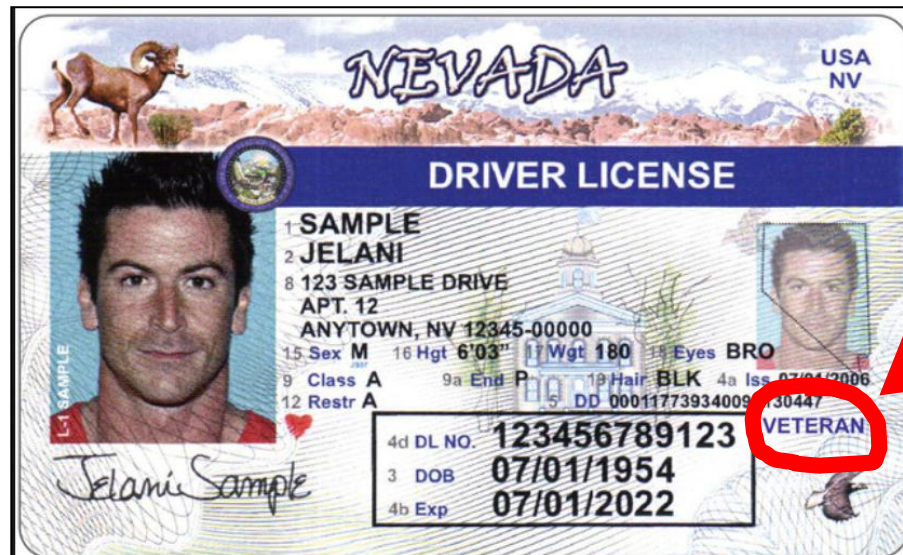
- Allow the Director to appoint an administrator **or** contract with a management company at State Veterans Homes
- Authorize the Director to establish veterans' Adult Day Health Care facilities
- Remove obsolete requirements regarding the locations at which veterans' homes must be established (they are now established)



Assembly Bill 28

Changes NRS 483.292, 483.852, 483.927 (Motor Vehicle Drivers Licences) to:

- Allow evidence other than a DD-214 to be used to establish veteran status by the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to place the word, “Veteran” on a drivers license
- Specifically, under AB 28 evidence would include digital verification obtained from the Nevada Veterans Information System maintained by the Department of Veterans Services



Senate Bill 16

Changes NRS 417 (Veterans Services) to:

- Authorize the Director to apply for certain federal grants and other sources of money
- Authorize the Director to accept certain money received from various sources
- Require the Director to deposit any money received from federal grants or certain other sources of money with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for Veterans and to use such money only for specified purposes



Assembly Bill 37

Changes NRS 417 (Veterans Services) to:

- Eliminate the right of a serviceman or servicewoman to demand a trial by court-martial instead of accepting a nonjudicial punishment
- Require a commanding officer considering imposing nonjudicial punishment consult with a judge advocate in determining whether nonjudicial punishment is appropriate
- Authorize the commanding officer to consult with a superior officer in making that determination



Director's Update on Budget Issues

- Northern Nevada Veterans Home – contract management costs
- Additional Staff Support Requested
 - 2 Veterans Service Officers (VSO) –Approved
 - Management Analyst 3 (Finance)—Approved
 - Reclassification of Women Vet Coordinator to VSO—Approved
 - Reclassification of Grounds Supervisor 1 to Grounds Supervisor 2—Approved
 - Community Outreach Director (North) – Not currently in budget
 - Travel Administrative Assistant—Not currently in budget

Legislative BDRs in Progress-1

- 2 (Miller): Creates the office of Inspector General
- 4 (Bilbray-Axelrod): Revises provisions governing admission to state parks for veterans
- 74 (Hardy): Revises provisions relating to persons with disabilities
- 78 (Spearman): Designates the new Interstate 11 highway as the Purple Heart Highway
- 94 (Thompson): Creates the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness
- 95 (Miller): Revises the provision of certain medical benefits and care for veterans
- 125 (Edwards): Revises provisions governing the Department of Veterans Services
- 126 (Yeager) Revises provisions relating to civil liability for causing the injury or death of certain pets
- 153 (McArthur) Revises provisions governing tax exemptions for certain veterans

Legislative BDRs in Progress-2

- 162 (ILC-Seniors/Veterans): Revises provisions governing the veterans' preference for state employment
- 168 (ILC-Seniors/Veterans): Enacts provisions relating to veterans
- 264 (Dallas / Harris): Makes certain changes relating to taxation... Veteran to prove eligibility... assist homeless persons, specialty courts and diversion programs
- 288 (Bilbray-Axelrod): Enacts provisions to assist veteran-owned businesses create Co-ops
- 388 (Education): Revises provisions relating to the licensure and employment of veterans, military personnel and their spouses in Nevada's public schools
- 407 [SB2](#) (Attorney General): Authorizes creation of Veterans Courts by Justice Courts and Municipal Courts
- 543 (Neil): Revises provisions governing loan practices
- 552 (Spearman): Revises provisions relating to victims of military sexual trauma

Legislative BDRs in Progress-3

- 566 (Spearman): Makes an appropriation to the Nevada National Guard for certain youth programs
- 568 (Cancela): Revises provisions relating to payday lenders
- 621 (Swank): Revises provisions relating to payday lending
- 624 (Roberts): Revises provisions governing pupils who are children of active military personnel
- 645 (Settlemeier): Makes certain changes relating to the Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission
- 647 (Ellison): Revises provisions governing the prevention of suicide
- 663 (Settlemeier): Revises provisions relating to certain license plates
- 676 (Torres): Makes various changes relating to professional and occupational licensing

Legislative BDRs in Progress-4

- 689 (Hardy): Hardy Revises provisions relating to service animals
- 697 (Cohen): Urges Congress to oppose the expansion of the United States Air Force into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada
- 715 (Assy-Judiciary): Revises provisions related to charitable gaming
- 737 (Settlemyer): Revises provisions relating to certain tax exemptions for veterans
- 748 (Scheible): Revises provisions relating to animals
- 792 (Dallas Harris): Makes various changes concerning funding for programs related to homelessness
- 842 (Assy-Judiciary): Revises provisions relating to specialty courts
- 894 (Assy-Gov't Affairs): Revises provisions governing certain programs and services related to certain military service

The Legislative Session

- Begins February 4, 2019
- 120 Days Long
- Online Bill Tracking (NELIS)
- Sign Up For Updates Via Email
- Veterans and Military Day At The Legislature on March 20, 2019 (VAMDAL)



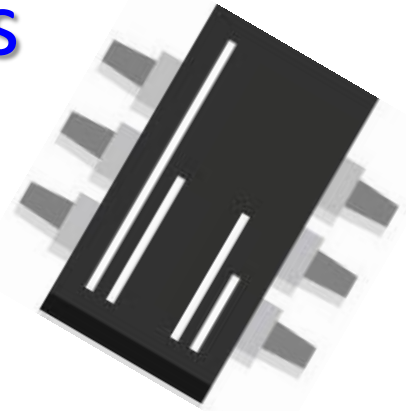
***Let your voice be heard—
Share Your Opinion on Legislative Bills!***

Signing up for Bill Tracking

- The **N**evada **E**lectronic **L**egislative **I**nformation **S**ystem (NELIS) is a free public tool that provides content of bills and committee meeting information. It allows you to subscribe to BDRs, bills, and budgets that are of interest to you.
- Once registered, you will receive immediate notifications of hearings, a daily status notification, and have access to tailored, exportable reports for the subscriptions you have chosen to track
- To create an account:
 - Go to <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019>
 - Click "Personalized Legislative Tracking" on the upper right side of the screen
 - Click on "PLT Home" and follow the instructions to create your account



Digital Lobbyist - Resources



- **How to get all of the details about the Legislative Session:**
 - ✓ Nevada State Legislature <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>
 - ✓ Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019>
 - ✓ Personalized Legislative Tracking (PLT) <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Plt>
 - ✓ Nevada Legislature Portal <http://www.nevadalegislature.com/>
 - ✓ Nevada State Website/Government/Legislature <http://nv.gov/government/legislative/>
 - ✓ Governor's Website <http://gov.nv.gov/>
 - ✓ Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>
 - ✓ Nevada Supreme Court <http://nvcourts.gov/>
- **Why this is important:** Learning to navigate the Legislature Websites will provide any and all legislative information desired
- **The Bottom Line:** Just knowing the Legislative branch's activity is not enough. Get to know the Executive and Judicial branches as well for a fully rounded foundation as a lobbyist. Either can derail all of your hard fought work with the stroke of a pen

Online Commenting – Online Lobbying – Online Polling

79TH (2017) SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

SHARE YOUR OPINION WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

[Reports](#) | [View Comments](#) | [Submit Another Opinion](#)

The Opinion Poll portion of this site contains constituent opinions for the 79th (2017) Session of the Nevada Legislature. Feel free to view constituent opinions by clicking on the links above.

Throughout a legislative session, legislators review these opinions to gain perspective on how constituents in their districts feel about legislation. Constituent names, addresses and other personal information are NOT made public, but are available to legislators so that they will know who is submitting the comment and are able to contact the constituent if they so desire. Only opinion totals and comments are made publicly available on this site.

Thank you for participating in your government.

Bill Information and Opinion	
Please share your thoughts.	
Select Bill	Select a bill ▼ Legend: * indicates the bill was introduced in the 78th (2015) Session.
Or type the bill name here	<input type="text"/> then click on the button <input type="button" value="Get Bill Information"/> Example: AB362
Your View	For <input type="radio"/> Against <input type="radio"/>
Any Comments? Not required. Maximum 2000 characters.	<input type="text"/>

In order to accurately determine the legislative district in which you reside, we ask that you please provide your physical address; however, your phone number and email address are NOT required.

Constituent Information	
Confidential information will not be made public.	
Name	Title: <input type="text"/> Other/None ▼ First: <input type="text"/> Last: <input type="text"/>
Physical Address	<input type="text"/>
City, State, Zip	<input type="text"/> Nevada ▼ Zip: <input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Remember Me <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <i>You must select a bill from the dropdown list or click on the Get button before you can submit your opinion.</i>

This is where numbers REALLY matter. The highest number of prevailing comments [yes or no] have the greatest influence. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/80th2019>

HOW TO... Non-Paid [Military] Veteran Lobbyist

1. Register online at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Lobbyist/80th2019>
2. Create a no cost online account
3. Review reporting requirements and penalties
4. List organization(s) represented
5. Provide proof of Veteran Status (DD214, NVDL w/Veteran symbol, etc.) to Lobby Registrar for no-cost registration
6. Get photo for badge
7. Complete required Lobby training
8. Complete Monthly Expense online reporting required

To register to represent UVLC:

United Veterans Legislative Council [UVLC]

P.O. Box 1147, Yerington, NV 89447-1147 775-354-9300

WHY REGISTER ?

- No Cost
- Affords easy access to Lawmakers, and most of the building.
- Demonstrates the depth of involvement of Veterans in the legislative process
- Numbers matter when viewed by the lawmakers, and committee chairmen

Become a UVLC Member!

**Attend the UVLC meetings
(See locations in your packet)**



- ✓ Represent your Veterans Organization(s)
- ✓ Identify Veterans issues & develop solutions
- ✓ Participate in the Legislative process
- ✓ Help with language research
- ✓ Learn Lobbying skills
- ✓ Attend Legislative Hearings
- ✓ Visit with Lawmakers and the Leadership
- ✓ Provide testimony before Committees

Important Contact Information

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Conclusion

Your participation matters!

