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Report to the Veteran Community on the 82nd Legislative Session

Fulfilling the Requirements of Assembly Bill 62 (2015)
Provided by the Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services

September 1, 2023

1. Introduction: This memorandum provides a report to the veteran community as required by NRS 417.103. This report is intended to provide information regarding veterans' legislation to the veteran community, and, over time, to establish a history of legislation introduced, passed, or considered that can be referenced in future policy discussions. NRS 417.103 requires the Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) to provide this report no later than September 1 following each regular session of the Legislature, and requires that the report provide details on the following:

- A description of each newly enacted statute by the Legislature affecting veterans in this State.
- A description of each bill, or portion of a bill, newly enacted by the Legislature that appropriates or authorizes money for veterans, or otherwise affects the amount of money that is available for veterans' services, including, without limitation, each line item in a budget for such an appropriation or authorization.
- A brief plan by the Director, NDVS for carrying out duties required by newly passed legislation.
- The date on which each statute and bill described in the memorandum becomes effective.

2. Background:

a. For decades, NDVS has coordinated the efforts of Nevada's veterans' community events by convening legislative meetings and councils to: (1) gather issues important to veterans that could be considered for a legislative bill draft request (BDR), and (2) educate veterans, their families, and their supporters so they might fully participate in the legislative process. The three events traditionally conducted are the Veterans Legislative Symposium, the Veterans Legislative Summit, and Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature.

b. During the 77th Legislative Session (2013), Nevada's veterans organizations formed an informal coalition (later organized as the United Veterans Legislative Council or UVLC) to help create a single voice, where possible, to advocate for veterans' legislation. During the 78th Legislative Session, NDVS first partnered with the UVLC to conduct the Veterans Legislative Symposium, the Veterans Legislative Summit, and Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature.

c. This partnership continued through later Legislative Sessions, resulting in a greater appreciation of issues affecting Nevada veterans, active duty, guard, and reserve serving in Nevada, and their family members. During the 82nd Legislative Session the UVLC Chair was Andy LePeilbet (Military

Order of the Purple Heart) and UVLC senior representatives; Secretary Peggy Bohn (Lady Vets), Vice Chair Ms. Bobi Oates, (Women Veterans of Nevada), Mr. Bruno Moya (Merging Vets and Players), Jim Kelly (VFW), and Norman Allen (Marine Corps League/VVA).

3. 82nd Legislative Session Events:

a. Legislative Symposia: March 19, 2022 (Las Vegas), March 26, 2022 (Reno).

(1) During the past four sessions, symposia have been held in both northern and southern Nevada except for 2020, when due to the global pandemic, a single symposium was held virtually.

(2) Recommendations gathered from six Nevada's veterans' panels, committees, and commission, and from State of Nevada Veterans Services Organizations, were presented to Symposium participants. Participants included leaders of all of Nevada's major Veterans Service Organizations, individual veterans and their supporters.

(3) During the Symposium final recommendations and prioritizations were gathered and compiled into a report for consideration by Nevada's elected officials. 61 recommendations were identified, and 11 of these recommendations were prioritized as being the most critical. 14 of the 61 were Federal issues and were referred to Nevada's Federal Delegation for consideration.

(4) There were several common themes that emerged from the recommendations. These themes, in priority order, were:

STATE-WIDE THEME 1: Improve medical and mental health care programs.

STATE-WIDE THEME 2: Require service providers to implement the, "Ask the Question" Program.

STATE-WIDE THEME 3: Reduce certain state fees, offering veterans preferences, and providing medical time off for veterans employed by the State of Nevada.

STATE-WIDE THEME 4: Occupational licensure for veterans and military spouses.

STATE-WIDE THEME 5: Programing for veterans in/transitioning from justice system.

b. 82nd Legislative Summits: January 14, 2023 (Las Vegas), January 21, 2023 (Reno).

(1) The purpose of the summits was to provide an update on the status of the prioritized legislative recommendations developed during the Symposia, a description of bills that had been pre-filed with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, and information about how veterans and veteran supporters could participate in the legislative process.

(2) At the Reno summit, there were 78 attendees with 67 attending the Las Vegas summit. These attendees represented 17 different veterans' organizations.

c. Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL). Carson City Capitol and Legislative Complexes: March 15, 2023.

(1) Veterans Day at the Legislature. The third Wednesday in March during each regular session of the Legislature is established as "Veterans Day at the Legislature" in the State of Nevada in

recognition of the contributions veterans have made to the prosperity of Nevada and the United States (NRS 236.047).

(2) Historically, VAMDAL is jointly hosted by NDVS, the UVLC, and the Nevada National Guard and provides an opportunity for veterans to talk directly to legislators on legislation important to them and to see a display of Nevada National Guard equipment. Due to weather conditions, this event was moved inside the State Library and Archives building. Approximately 300 veterans, military and supporters attended this event. Following the ceremony, veteran attendees were given the opportunity to join their legislators on the floors of the Senate and Assembly to be recognized. This was followed by the opportunity to meet with providers, exhibitors, and enjoy a catered lunch.

4. 82nd Legislative Session Bill Overview

a. 29 bill draft requests (BDRs) supporting veterans, military, and their families were assigned a bill. 18 important Veterans bills were signed into law by Governor Lombardo and one Senate Joint Resolution was enrolled and sent to the Secretary of State, comprising 66 percent of bills considered favorably. 10 bills failed by the Legislative deadline.

b. Four of the five state-wide themes identified in the 2022 Legislative Symposia were addressed through 18 bills that the Governor signed, or through the passage of Governor Lombardo's SFY 24-25 Budget as shown here. Details of each of the bills shown below are in Paragraph 5 and 6 of this report:

THEME 1: Improve medical and mental health care programs: AB 7, AB 108, AB311, AJR 1, SB 178, SB 218, SB 298.

THEME 2: Require service providers to implement the, "Ask the Question" Program: No BDRs.

THEME 3: Honor and recognize veterans' service by reducing certain state fees, offering veterans preferences, and providing medical time off for veterans employed by the State of Nevada: AB 203, AB 260, AB 279, AB 295, AB 306, SB 50, SB 374.

THEME 4: Improve occupational licensure for veterans and military spouses: AB 158, SB 97, SB 175, SB 270, SB 399, SB 442.

THEME 5: Improve programing for veterans in/transitioning from justice system: AB 35.

Additionally, funding was approved in the Governor's CIP Budget to remodel the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, for planning the North Las Vegas State Veterans Home, and for other projects.

Based on the Governor's budget requests, the Legislature approved two full-time Grounds Maintenance Workers, two full-time Veteran Service Officers, two Health Program Specialists (one Veterans Suicide Prevention Program Manager and one Healthcare Initiative Program Manager), one Education/Employment Program Manager and a Northern Nevada Outreach Director.

Additionally, the Governor's recommended budget was approved with funding for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program, the number one priority from the attendees of the NDVS/UVLC Legislative Symposia held in March 2022.

5. Detailed Description of Legislation Considered and Passed: The following section provides a description of veteran-related legislation that passed, the date each statute and bill described in the memorandum becomes effective, and a brief plan by the NDVS Director for carrying out duties required by newly passed legislation. Additionally, this section also lists bills that failed by deadline or by the Governor's veto as reference for future policy discussions on veterans' issues.

✓ **AB 7:** Revises provisions relating to electronic health records. (BDR 40-381)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

Votes: Passed Assembly with 28 Yeas, 14 Nays, Senate 14 Yeas, 7 Nays

Effective Date: Section 4 and sections 1.09, 1.1, and 1.2 effective June 10, 2023. Sections 2.5 and 2.7 effective on July 1, 2023. Sections 1 to 1.08, inclusive, 1.3 to 2.45, inclusive, 2.8, and 3 effective on June 10, 2023, for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on July 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Health and Human Services is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 35:** Revises provisions governing the access of offenders to telecommunications devices. (BDR 16-261)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate 19 Yeas, 2 Nays

Effective Date: Section 2 effective June 2, 2023. Section 1 effective June 2, 2023, for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Corrections is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 36:** Authorize the ICVA to add certain members and to change certain reporting requirements (BDR 37-284).

Sponsor(s): Introduced by the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs on behalf of NDVS

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously. 1 Excused, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: NDVS has worked with the Governor's office to notify the three agencies that they have been selected to participate on the ICVA.

✓ **AB 44:** Authorize NDVS to revise the titles of Deputy Directors and provide training to Accredited Veterans Service Officers. (BDR 37-243)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs on behalf of NDVS

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: NDVS has implemented the change in the Deputy Directors' titles. NDVS will coordinate with all accredited Veterans Service Organizations to offer training for their accredited Veterans Service Officers.

✓ **AB 84:** Provides for the issuance of free annual permits to certain persons for entering state parks and recreational areas. (BDR 35-471)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 158:** Ratifies recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (BDR 40-511)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Philip P.K. O'Neill, Ken Gray, and Heidi Kasama

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: Section 23 effective June 12, 2023. Section 21.5 of this act effective on July 1, 2023. Sections 1 to 21, inclusive, and 22 of this act effective on June 12, 2023, for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on October 1, 2023, for all other purposes.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Health and Human Services is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 185:** Revises provisions governing the education of pupils who are children of military personnel. (BDR 34-524)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblywoman Erika Mosca

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: Section 3 effective May 30, 2023. Sections 1, 1.5, and 2 of this act effective May 30, 2023, for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Education is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 203:** Revises provisions relating to special license plates. (BDR 43-118)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Gregory T. Hafen, Reuben D'Silva, and Ken Gray

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: Sections 8, 10, 11.5, and 12 effective June 15, 2023. Sections 1 to 7, inclusive, 9 and 11 effective on the date on which the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to section 11.5 of this act, notifies the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau that sufficient resources are available to carry out the amendatory provisions of this act.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Motor Vehicles is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 260:** Exempts Veterans Service Organizations from various fees conducting business in Nevada. (BDR 7-73)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblyman Philip P.K. O'Neill

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: Section 1 effective June 14, 2023, for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes. Section 2 effective June 14, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Secretary of State is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 279:** Revises provisions governing the waiver of tuition and registration and certain fees for students who are children of certain veterans. (BDR 34-531)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Reuben D'Silva, Ken Gray, Clara Thomas, Senators Pat

Spearman, Edgar Flores, and Roberta Lange

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Health and Human Services is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 311:** Revises provisions governing health care; authorizing an agreement with the Armed Forces of the United States for the provision of care. (BDR 40-983)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: May 30, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Health and Human Services is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 465:** Revises provisions governing the Adjutant General of the Office of the Military. (BDR 36-1192)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblyman Steve Yeager

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, 1 Excused, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Nevada National Guard is the lead for this action.

✓ **AB 505:** Makes appropriations to the Department of Veterans Services and the Veterans Home Account for computer hardware and software, and technology peripheral devices. (BDR S-1143)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: June 10, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: NDVS will purchase necessary computer hardware,

software, and information technology peripheral devices as appropriate.

✓ **AJR 1:** Urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to study the effectiveness and use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for veterans. (BDR R-838)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Richard McArthur, Gregory Hafen, Ken Gray, Philip P.K. O'Neill, Steve Yeager, Senators Lisa Krasner, Robin Titus, Pat Spearman, Carrie Buck, and Edgar Flores

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: May 29, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Secretary of State is the lead for this action.

✓ **SB 50:** Revises provisions governing the sales tax holiday for certain members of the Nevada National Guard and certain relatives of such members. (BDR 32-253)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Taxation is the lead for this action.

✓ **SB 442:** Enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. (BDR 34-83)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Date: Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, effective May 31, 2023, for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any preliminary administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and January 1, 2024, for all other purposes. Section 6 effective May 31, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Department of Education is the lead for this action.

✓ **SB 476:** Makes appropriations to the Office of the Military for maintenance, replacement, and purchase of certain equipment. (BDR S-1187)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by the Senate Committee on Finance

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously, 1 Excused

Effective Date: June 12, 2023

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Office of the Military is the lead for this action.

✓ **SB 504:** Authorizes expenditures by NDVS General Funds for the 2023-2025 biennium. (BDR S-1207)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senate Committee on Finance

Votes: Passed Assembly unanimously, Senate unanimously

Effective Dates: Sections 1 to 23, inclusive, 25, 26 and 27 effective July 1, 2023. Section 24 effective July 1, 2023, if and only if, Assembly Bill No. 477 of this session is not enacted by the Legislature and does not become effective. Sections 28 and 29 effective May 31, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: NDVS will receive funds and expend as appropriate.

34th SPECIAL SESSION (2023)

✓ **AB 1:** Authorizes and provides funding for certain projects of capital improvement.

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblyman Steve Yeager and Senator Nicole Cannizzaro

Votes: Passed Assembly 30 Yeas, 11 Nays, 1 Excused, Passed Senate 14 Yeas, 7 Nays

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: Director will work with the State Public Works Division Administrator to ensure the smooth completion of all Capital Improvement Projects for NDVS.

LEGISLATION NOT PASSED

✗ **AB 108:** Enacts the Nurse Licensure Compact. (BDR 54-522)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ AB 174: Revises provisions governing the Adjutant General of the Office of the Military. (BDR 36-734)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblyman Ken Gray, Senators Pat Spearman, Lisa Krasner, Jeff Stone, and Heidi Seevers Gansert

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ AB 295: Revises provisions relating to certain tax exemptions for veterans and surviving spouses of veterans. (BDR 32-691)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Toby Yurek, Ken Gray, and Reuben D'Silva

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ AB 306: Requires the waiver of certain fees for certain veteran-owned businesses. (BDR 7-956)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Assemblypersons Richard McArthur, Selena Torres, Reuben D'Silva, and Ken Gray

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ SB 97: Enacts provisions governing the interstate practice of physical therapy. (BDR 54-402)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ SB 178: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Veteran Services for the K-9 Corps. (BDR S-722)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senators Lisa Krasner, Edgar Flores, and Pat Spearman

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ SB 218: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Services for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program. (BDR S-299)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senate Committee on Finance

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required (NOTE: The Adopt a Vet Dental funding was included in the NDVS General Fund budget by the Governor's Finance Office).

✗ SB 270: Revises provisions governing massage therapists. (BDR 54-814)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senator Melanie Scheible

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ SB 374: Revises provisions relating to property taxes of certain veterans and their surviving spouses. (BDR 32-578)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senators Jeff Stone, Ira Hansen, Lisa Krasner, and Carrie Buck

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

✗ SB 399: Revises provisions governing occupational and professional licensing. (BDR 54-577)

Sponsor(s): Introduced by Senator Jeff Stone

Votes: Not voted upon

Effective Date: Not applicable

Status: Failed by deadline

NDVS Director's Plan for Implementation: No NDVS action required

6. Budget Items:

a. In the 82nd Session, Nevada's Legislature approved budgets for veterans' services included General Fund Appropriations of \$8,850,965 and Federal/other spending authority of \$123,644,045. See the table below for the budget account breakout.

Budget Account	General / Other State Funds	Federal and Other Spending Authority	Total (\$)
2560: Veterans Services	7,814,682	3,938,168	11,752,850
2561: Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	0	80,441,747	80,441,747
2569: Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	1,036,283	39,264,130	40,300,413
Total (\$)	8,850,965	123,644,045	132,495,010

b. Additionally, four critical Veterans Capital Improvement Projects valued at \$122,664,170 were approved:

Project	State Funding	Other Funding	Total (\$)
Walk-In Cooler and Freezer Replacement, Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	503,680	0	503,680
Replace Cooling Tower Piers, Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	390,222	0	390,222

Chapel Remodel, Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery	894,842	0	894,842
Advance Planning, North Las Vegas State Veterans Home	15,537,686	0	15,537,686
Remodel and Addition, Southern Nevada State Veterans Home.	35,831,018	63,957,628	99,788,646
Committal Building, Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery	3,451,011	0	3,451,011
Storage Building Installation, Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	2,098,083	0	2,098,083
Total (\$)	58,706,542	63,957,628	122,664,170

7. For additional information, please contact Ms. Lety Chavez at chavezl@veterans.nv.gov.