



Bills of Interest to Veterans Introduced as of January 25, 2016

BILL [SB16-001](#)

CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Short Title: Unlimited Mil Retirement Benefit Tax Deduction

Sponsors: CROWDER

The starting point for determining state income tax liability is federal taxable income. This number is adjusted for additions and subtractions (deductions) that are used to determine Colorado taxable income, which amount is multiplied by the state's 4.63% income tax rate. Currently, a person who is 55-64 years old may deduct up to \$20,000 of his or her military retirement benefits from federal taxable income, and a person who is 65 years old or older may deduct up to \$24,000. With respect to military retirement benefits, the bill eliminates these limits and allows a person to claim a state income tax deduction for the entire amount.

Status

01/13/2016 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Finance + Appropriations

Senate Sponsors: Crowder, Cadman, Roberts, Scheffel, Sonnenberg, Baumgardner, Marble, Tate, Holbert, Lundberg, Martinez Humenik, Cooke, Woods, Grantham, Scott

BILL [HB16-1009](#)

CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF FALLEN HEROES LICENSE PLATES.

Short Title: Fallen Heroes License Plates Local Authorities

Sponsors: BUCK / COOKE

The bill authorizes local authorities to be issued fallen hero license plates. Local authorities need only pay the required donation. The bill clarifies that the fallen hero license plate is a distinctive special license plate. The retirement date of the plate is repealed.

Status

01/13/2016 00:10 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

House Sponsors: Buck

Senate Sponsors: Cooke

BILL [HB16-1061](#)

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

Short Title: Military Installation Transp Needs Planning

Sponsors: CARVER

The bill requires the comprehensive statewide transportation plan prepared by the department of transportation to include an emphasis on coordination with federal military installations in the state to identify the transportation infrastructure needs of the installations and ensure that those needs are given full consideration during the formation of the plan.

Status

01/13/2016 00:10 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

House Sponsors: Carver and Nordberg

BILL [HB16-1102](#)

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT DRUG MANUFACTURERS REPORT PRODUCTION COSTS FOR CERTAIN HIGH-COST PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Short Title: Drug Production Costs Transparency Requirements

Sponsors: GINAL / NEWELL

The bill requires a drug manufacturer that produces a prescription drug made available in Colorado and for which the wholesale acquisition cost equals or exceeds \$50,000 per year or per course of treatment to submit a report to the Colorado commission on affordable health care (commission) detailing the production costs for the drug. The report is to include:

- * Costs for research and development;
- * Clinical trials and regulatory costs;
- * Costs for materials, manufacturing, and administration attributable to the drug;
- * Costs paid by another entity, including grants, subsidies, or other support;
- * Acquisition costs, including patents and licensing costs;

* Marketing and advertising costs. Additionally, a manufacturer must report the cumulative annual history of increases in the average wholesale price and wholesale acquisition cost of the drug, the total company profits attributable to the drug, and the total amount of financial assistance the manufacturer has provided through patient prescription assistance programs. Manufacturers must submit the report to the commission by August 1, 2016. By June 1, 2016, the commission must develop a form for manufacturers to use to submit the report. Additionally, the commission is to submit a report to the general assembly by December 1, 2016, that outlines the information reported by drug manufacturers and contains any recommendations the commission may have regarding legislative, administrative, or other policy changes based on the data received from drug manufacturers.

Status

01/19/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment

House Sponsors: Ginal, Buckner, Hullinghorst, Lee, Lontine, Salazar, Vigil

Senate Sponsors: Newell and Roberts, Aguilar, Kefalas

BILL HB16-1112

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM .

Short Title: Training Vets To Train Service Dogs Pilot Program

Sponsors: LANDGRAF / CROWDER

The bill creates the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program (program) and the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program fund. The purpose of the program is to identify a group of up to 10 eligible veterans, as defined by federal law and who have been referred by a qualified mental health professional, to participate in the program, to pair with dogs. The dogs will be identified by qualified canine trainers in conjunction with the veterans. The participants will foster, train, and ultimately utilize the dog he or she has been paired with as a service or companion animal. The program will further offer those veterans who graduate from the program with a trained dog the opportunity and necessary follow-along services to expand the program, if willing, through identifying, fostering, and training a subsequent dog for another eligible veteran who is unable to complete one or more parts of the process due to physical or other limitations. The executive director of the department of human services (director) shall establish and post criteria, including eligibility criteria, for the program. The director shall establish guidelines and timelines for a request for proposals process to select a nonprofit entity (nonprofit) to facilitate operations for the program. The chosen nonprofit shall record and report measurable outcomes to the director.

Status

01/20/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Public Health Care & Human Services

House Sponsors: Landgraf, Lontine, Priola, Roupe, Windholz, Ginal, Carver, Brown, Joshi, Pabon, Rankin, Ryden, Saine, Thurlow

Senate Sponsors: Crowder

BILL HB16-1125

CONCERNING CREATING A COLORADO STATUTORY REFERENCE TO CONFORM WITH THE FEDERAL DEFINITION OF "VETERAN".

Short Title: Aligning Definition Of Veteran With Federal Law

Sponsors: ROUPE / BAUMGARDNER

The bill creates a Colorado statutory reference to conform with the federal definition of "veteran".

Status

01/20/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Sponsors: Roupe, Carver, Landgraf, Lontine, Dore

Senate Sponsors: Baumgardner, Garcia, Lambert, Todd

BILL HB16-1134

CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES PREFERENCE IN STATE PROCUREMENT.

Short Title: Service-disabled Veteran-owned Bus In Procurement

Sponsors: CARVER / TODD

In 2014, the general assembly established a goal that, in awarding contracts that are subject to the state "Procurement Code", the state would award at least 3% of all contracts by dollar value to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The bill changes the procurement goal into a requirement as follows:

- * In the 2016-17 fiscal year, at least one percent of state contracts by dollar value shall be awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses;
- * In the 2017-18 fiscal year, at least 2% of state contracts by dollar value shall be awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses; and
- * In the 2018-19 fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter, at least 3% of state contracts by dollar value shall be awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Current law allows a state agency to grant a preference to a service-disabled veteran-owned small business to satisfy the procurement goal. The bill maintains the ability for a state agency to grant such a preference to satisfy the procurement requirement and also allows a state agency to grant a preference for a business that includes in its bid that it will use at least one service-disabled veteran-owned small business as a subcontractor if the business is awarded the contract. The bill also authorizes a state agency to include work performed by a subcontractor that is a service-

disabled veteran-owned small business to satisfy the procurement requirements. If a business is given a preference on the basis of using one or more service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses as a subcontractor, the bill requires the business to submit certain information to the state agency that awarded the contract regarding the number of such subcontractors used and the approximate dollar value of work that was performed by such subcontractors. Current law requires a business to be certified as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business by the center for veterans enterprise within the United States department of veterans affairs before being given a preference. Due to the significant amount of time that it takes for a business owner to obtain a service-disabled veteran-owned small business certification, the bill extends service-disabled veteran-owned eligibility to business owners who have applied for certification from the center for veterans enterprise and who have submitted certain documentation to the secretary of state's office regarding the business owner's release or discharge from active duty military, the business owner's military service-related disability, and the business owner's efforts to become an officially registered and verified service-disabled veteran-owned small business by the center for veterans enterprise. The bill directs the secretary of state to create and maintain on its website a list of businesses that have not yet been officially registered and verified as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business by the center for veterans enterprise but that have submitted the required documentation for service-disabled veteran-owned small business eligibility. The bill specifies that businesses that are on the list maintained by the secretary of state are eligible for a preference in state contracting and authorizes a state agency to include work performed by businesses on the list to satisfy the procurement requirements. In addition, the bill modifies the information that a business must submit with a bid to be eligible to receive the preference and modifies existing reporting requirements.

Status

01/20/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

House Sponsors: Carver, Landgraf, Lee, Priola, Roupe

Senate Sponsors: Todd

Other Bills Anticipated of Interest to Veterans:

- **Completion of Housing & Services Options for Veterans on Campus of Fitzsimons Veterans Community Living Center – Sponsor: Rep. Ryden**
- **Housing for Homeless Veterans on Campus of Fitzsimons CLC Campus – Sponsor: Rep. Windholz**
- **Recognition of Military Training and Experience for Professional Licensing and Certification – Sponsor: Rep. Carver & Rep. Ryden**
- **Housing Assistance for Low Income Individuals and Families (to be presented to UVC Legislative Committee for support by former Representative Claire Levy, and current Exec. Director of Colorado Center on Law & Policy)**
- **Suicide Prevention Through the Establishment of the Zero Suicide Prevention Framework – Sponsor: Senator Newell**
- **Naming of Portions of State Highways for Veterans – Sen. Todd & Rep. Ryden**
- **Other.....**