



UVC Legislative Update Report – March 10, 2016

The following report contains the bill number, title, sponsors, summary and most recent status of all the bills that have been introduced as of this date. The report also notes the position taken by the UVC on each bill where a vote has been taken at a monthly UVC membership meeting, including positions taken at the March 8th membership meeting. Those bills that do not have a UVC position noted will be discussed at the March 29th meeting of the Legislative and Executive Committees, with a recommendation coming to the April 12th membership meeting.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Bill Hanna, UVC Legislative Liaison, 303-906-3340, bill@billhanna.com

HB16-1061 UVC Position: Support

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 & NORDBERG/TODD

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

03/08/2016 Senate Committee on Transportation Refer Unamended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole

HB16-1112 UVC Position: Support

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 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

03/08/2016 House Committee on Public Health Care & Human Services Refer Amended to Appropriations. *(Note: An amendment was added to the bill in Committee to provide one-time funding to the program from reverted funds in the Veterans Trust Fund that were not fully used by VTF grantees. The UVC is requesting that this funding source not be used for this project.)*

HB16-1125 **UVC Position: Support**

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

03/04/2016 House Concurred with Senate amendments and repassed the bill. It is on the way to the Governor for signature.

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. As introduced, 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. 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.

Status

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

(Note: Due to several implementation and fiscal issues, the sponsor is likely to propose to amend the bill to remove the goal requirement, but retain and expand the establishment of the website listing of such businesses in the office of the Secretary of State.)

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN MONEY THAT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL WARRANTS ISSUED BY THE STATE TREASURER TO REIMBURSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR PROPERTY TAX REVENUES LOST AS A RESULT OF THE APPLICATION OF A CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

Short Title: Allocate Senior Property Tax Exemption Money
Sponsors: YOUNG / LAMBERT

Joint Budget Committee. Of the amount by which the total estimated amount specified in the annual general appropriation act for the costs of providing property tax exemptions to qualifying seniors and disabled veterans exceeds the total amount of all warrants issued by the state treasurer to reimburse local governmental entities for the amount of property tax revenues lost as a result of the application of the exemption, the state treasurer shall transfer:

- * 95% to the senior services account within the older Coloradans cash fund; and
- * 5% to the veterans assistance grant program cash fund.

Status
03/02/2016 Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

HB16-1179

CONCERNING THE POSSESSION OF CONCEALED HANDGUNS BY ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Short Title: Concealed Carry For Military Personnel
Sponsors: BUCK / SONNENBERG

For the existing criminal offense of unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon, the bill creates a new exemption that applies when:

- * The person is on active duty and serving in the armed forces of the United States military; and
- * The weapon in question is a concealed handgun.

Status
03/07/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Postpone Indefinitely

HB16-1194 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING A TEMPORARY INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR A PORTION OF LEASE PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY A QUALIFIED TAXPAYER FOR LEASING THE TAXPAYER'S AGRICULTURAL ASSET TO AN ELIGIBLE BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.

Short Title: Income Tax Deduction For Leasing Out Ag Asset
Sponsors: MITSCH BUSH / SONNENBERG

The bill allows an income tax deduction for specified income tax years if a qualified taxpayer enters into a qualified lease with an eligible beginning farmer or rancher, in an amount specified

in a deduction certificate issued by the Colorado agricultural development authority that is equal to 20% of the lease payments received from the eligible beginning farmer or rancher as specified in the qualified lease, not to exceed a specified amount per income tax year, for a maximum of 3 income tax years. The bill also specifies that the Colorado agricultural development authority may not issue more than 100 deduction certificates in an income tax year and that the authority must require that a copy of the schedule F that the eligible beginning farmer or rancher filed with the eligible beginning farmer's or rancher's federal income tax return be included as part of the application for a deduction certificate.

Status

02/22/2016 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer
Unamended to Finance

HB16-1197 **UVC Position: Support**

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT STATE AGENCIES IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE THE GRANTING OF OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIALS TO VETERANS BASED ON MILITARY TRAINING.

Short Title: Military Veteran Occupational Credentials

Sponsors: CARVER & MELTON / TODD & CROWDER

The bill requires each state agency that regulates a profession or occupation to evaluate and provide appropriate credit toward licensing and certification for military experience. Specifically, each agency must:

- * Evaluate the extent to which military training meets state requirements;
- * Identify reciprocity mechanisms with other states;
- * Determine if an occupational exam is available to authorize a veteran to practice an occupation;
- * Document the results and publish a summary of pathways available to a veteran to obtain authorization to practice an occupation;
- * Identify, where appropriate, those professions or occupations whose licencing and credentials are based on passing an exam;
- * Consult with community colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions with regard to bridge programs to cover educational gaps and refresher courses for lapsed credentials; and
- * Consider adopting a national credentialing exam. Each state agency may consult with any military official, state agency, or post-secondary educational institution, and each post-secondary educational institution is obligated to cooperate. Goals for compliance are set in a legislative declaration. Each state agency will report progress each year, until 2023.

Status

02/25/2016 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Appropriations

HB16-1206 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF PERSONS WITH CERTAIN CONNECTIONS TO POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, MILITARY SERVICE TO MAKE THEIR CURRENT LOCATION INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURE UNDER THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT".

Short Title: Allow Service Members Keep Location Info Private

Sponsors: NORDBERG

The bill allows persons who served in the military since September 11, 2001, and their immediate family members to, upon request, make their current location information exempt from electronic disclosure under the "Colorado Open Records Act".

Status

02/04/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

HB16-1267 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE "COLORADO VETERANS' SERVICE-TO-CAREER PILOT PROGRAM", AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO AID WORK FORCE CENTERS IN SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES SEEKING NEW EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS.

Short Title: Colorado Veterans' Service-To-Career Pilot Program

Sponsors: LEE & FIELDS/ WOODS & CARROLL

The bill creates the Colorado veterans' service-to-career pilot program (program) for the purpose of enhancing work force center services that are not available under federal law. The department of labor and employment will select one or more work force centers to contract with a nonprofit agency to administer the program. Work force centers selected by the department and the nonprofit agency shall develop and expand programs to provide work force development-related services specifically tailored to the unique needs and talents of veterans, spouses, and other eligible participants. The services provided by the program may include:

- * Skills training;
- * Opportunities for apprenticeship placements;
- * Opportunities for internship placements;
- * Opportunities for work placements with businesses or other organizations; and
- * Support services. The department shall develop a grant program so that work force centers may apply for money to administer the program. Money for the internships and apprenticeships may come from the employer, federal money, and grant money through the general fund. The bill outlines specific requirements that work force centers must meet in order to apply to the grant

program.

Status

03/03/2016 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Appropriations

HB16-1290 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING AN EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITIONAL JOBS PROGRAM.

Short Title: Extend Transitional Jobs Program

Sponsors: ESGAR & KRAFT-THARP / HEATH & HILL

Current law provides money to employers to hire eligible persons for transitional jobs through June 30, 2017, with no new jobs offered after December 31, 2016. The bill extends these dates to June 30, 2022, and December 31, 2021.

Status

02/24/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

HB16-1308

CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL.

Short Title: Fraudulent Misrepresentation Of A Service Animal

Sponsors: KAGAN / NEWELL

The bill creates a criminal offense of fraudulent misrepresentation of a service animal (offense). The offense applies to a person who intentionally fraudulently misrepresents an animal in his or her possession as a service animal for the purpose of obtaining the rights and privileges granted by law to persons with disabilities with service animals. The offense also applies to a person who knowingly and fraudulently misrepresents himself or herself as a trainer of a service animal. The penalty for fraudulent misrepresentation of a service animal mirrors the penalty for an offender who violates the provisions of the law concerning reserved parking for persons with disabilities. A person who has been convicted of an offense may petition the court to have his or her record of first conviction sealed if he or she has not committed an offense in the 3 years prior to petitioning the court.

Status

03/02/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary

HB16-1318 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH , MODIFYING AND CLARIFYING FILING REQUIREMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE "COLORADO CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT".

Short Title: Charitable Solicitations Regulation

Sponsors: WIST / NEWELL

Section 1 of the bill clarifies that a charitable organization's registration with the secretary of state must be renewed on an annual basis if the charitable organization intends to solicit in Colorado, and an organization may not continue to solicit donations if it fails to renew its registration. The bill also requires an organization to update information in its registration within thirty days after any change. Sections 1 to 4 of the bill make consistent the requirements for affirmations and declarations required on various forms under the charitable solicitation laws so that these laws are consistent with the multistate registration and filing portal. Section 5 of the bill allows the secretary of state, after a hearing, to issue a cease-and-desist order to enforce provisions of law prohibiting soliciting contributions, acting as a paid solicitor, or acting as a professional fundraiser without registering with the secretary of state as provided by law. This section also revises hearing requirements to be consistent with the "State Administrative Procedure Act". Section 6 of the bill specifies that if an organization fails to file its actual financial report to replace estimated financial reports, the organization is subject to statutory fines. Section 7 of the bill makes the bill effective July 1, 2017.

Status

03/02/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary

HB16-1349

CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.

Short Title: Continue Military Family Relief Fund Tax Check-off

Sponsors: RYDEN / CARROLL

The voluntary contribution program, commonly referred to as the tax check-off program, benefiting the military family relief fund (fund) is scheduled to repeal on January 1, 2017. The bill extends, for 5 years, the period for which the state income tax return forms include a line allowing individual taxpayers to make a voluntary contribution to the fund.

Status

03/09/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance

HB16-1351 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES CONVEY REAL PROPERTY AT THE FITZSIMONS CAMPUS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES BY DEV ELOPING TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR BOTH GROUPS OF SUCH VETERANS AND HOUSING WITH DOMICILIARY CARE FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES .

Short Title: Land Transfers For Veterans Housing

Sponsors: WINDHOLZ / CROWDER

The bill directs the executive director of the department of human services to convey 2 suitable and mutually agreed upon parcels of land of not more than 1.5 acres each on the Fitzsimons campus to the housing authority of the city of Aurora (AHA) subject to the condition that the AHA develop transitional housing, including short-, medium-, and long-term temporary housing provided to a veteran with a disability in combination with wraparound services in order to assist the veteran in developing stability in his or her life, for homeless veterans and veterans with disabilities on one parcel and housing with domiciliary care for veterans with disabilities and their spouses and legal dependents on the other parcel. The bill also clarifies that current state law that states that a new veterans center may only be built if existing veterans centers in the state have maintained an 80% occupancy rate over the 6-month period preceding the commencement of construction and that a new veterans center must include at least 120 beds does not apply to the projects.

Status

03/09/2016 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

HJR16-1005 UVC Position: Support

Short Title: U.S.S Colorado

Sponsors: WILLIAMS & HUMPHREY / SONNENBERG & ULIBARRI

Resolution to recognize and support the USS Colorado

Status

02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

HJR16-1006 UVC Position: Support

Short Title: Colorado Freedom Memorial Highway

Sponsors: RYDEN & THURLOW / TODD & MARTINEZ HUMENIK

Resolution to name a portion of a state highway after the Freedom Memorial

Status

02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

HJR16-1007 UVC Position: Support

Short Title: Honoring Fallen Soldiers

Sponsors: MELTON & LANDGRAF / HILL & HEATH

Resolution to recognize and honor fallen soldiers

Status

02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

SB16-001 UVC Position: Support

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

Short Title: Unlimited Mil Retirement Benefit Tax Deduction

Sponsors: CROWDER/LANDGRAF

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

01/28/2016 Senate Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

SB16-134 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL LICENSING FOR MILITARY VETERANS IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONS.

Short Title: Professional Licensing For Military Veterans

Sponsors: HEATH & GARCIA / DANIELSON & KAGAN

Section 1 of the bill requires the Colorado department of public health and environment (CDPHE) to consider crediting a military veteran's training, education, and experience toward the qualifications for certification as an emergency medical service provider. Section 2 of the bill requires the Colorado department of revenue (DOR) to consider crediting a military veteran's training, education, and experience toward the qualifications for a commercial driver's license. Section 3 of the bill requires the division of veterans affairs to make reasonable efforts to notify a discharged member of the obligations of CDPHE and DOR under sections 1 and 2 of the bill and of the duties and functions of a professional licensing authority that is regulated by the department of regulatory agencies.

Status

02/18/2016 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

SB16-144

CONCERNING ALLOWING CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE LESS THAN TWENTY -ONE YEARS OF AGE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

Short Title: CCW Permits For Military Personnel

Sponsors: COOKE

Under current law, an applicant for a concealed handgun permit must satisfy certain criteria, including a requirement that he or she is at least 21 years of age. The bill amends this requirement to state that the applicant must be either:

- * 21 years of age or older; or
- * 18 years of age or older and on active duty in, or honorably discharged from, any branch or reserve branch of the United States military forces, including the National Guard.

Status

03/04/2016 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

SB16-147 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING ESTABLISHING THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL TO REDUCE

DEATH BY SUICIDE IN THE COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

Short Title: Suicide Prevention Through Zero Suicide Model

Sponsors: NEWELL & MARTINEZ-HUMENIK / PETTERSEN

The bill establishes the Colorado zero suicide model (Colorado model) within the office of suicide prevention (office) in the department of public health and environment (department). The goal and purpose of the Colorado model is to reduce suicide rates and numbers in Colorado through system-level training and strategies for health care systems, including mental and behavioral health systems; physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions; and primary care providers, including pediatricians. The Colorado model, together with the office of suicide prevention, the office of behavioral health, the department, and the department of health care policy and financing, is encouraged to promote coordination of existing data across health systems. Health care and mental and behavioral health systems and organizations throughout the state, including hospitals, state crisis services and regional health systems, community mental health centers, community health systems, health management organizations, and behavioral health organizations, including substance abuse treatment organizations, are encouraged to adopt the 7 core tenets of the national zero suicide model. The office and the department are encouraged to collaborate with relevant entities to coordinate existing data to help gain a more complete understanding of suicide and how to prevent it and to identify groups at the greatest risk. The office shall include a summary of the activities of the Colorado model in the report submitted annually to the general assembly.

Status

03/04/2016 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health & Human Services

SB16-148 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING REQUIRING STUDENTS TO CORRECTLY ANSWER A PORTION OF THE CIVICS QUESTIONS ON THE UNITED STATES NATURALIZATION TEST AS PART OF THE EXISTING STATE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE A COURSE ON CIVIL GOVERNMENT BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

Short Title: Require Civics Test Before Graduate High School

Sponsors: HILL / MORENO & LUNDEEN

Under existing law, each high school student must satisfactorily complete a civics course as a condition of high school graduation. In connection with this requirement, the bill requires each student who is enrolled in ninth grade during or after the 2016-17 school year to correctly answer, before graduating from high school, at least 60 questions from the civics portion of the naturalization test (test) used by the United States citizenship and immigration services. The school district, charter school, or school operated by a board of cooperative services (local education provider) that enrolls the student may allow the student to take the test on multiple

occasions while enrolled in ninth through twelfth grade and, if necessary, to repeat the test until the student correctly answers at least 60 questions. Once the student correctly answers 60 questions, the local education provider will note the accomplishment on the student's transcript. A student who has a disability is excused from this requirement, except to the extent it may be required in the student's individualized education program. The superintendent or principal of a local education provider may waive the requirement for a student who meets all of the other graduation requirements and demonstrates the existence of extraordinary circumstances that justify the waiver. Each local education provider has complete flexibility in determining the manner of delivering the test and may incorporate the test into its existing curriculum. A local education provider shall not use the results of the test in measuring educator effectiveness.

Status

03/04/2016 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education

SJR16-014

Short Title: Sergeant Sean P. Renfro Memorial Highway

Sponsors: NEVILLE T. / EVERETT & LEONARD

Resolution to name a portion of a State highway

Status

03/10/2016 Senate Third Reading Laid Over to 03/14/2016 - No Amendments

SR16-002 UVC Position: Support

Short Title: Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

Sponsors: WOODS

Resolution to urge Congress to pass federal legislation creating a presumption of eligibility for VA benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans

Status

03/07/2016 Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments