

DVS Bill Tracking Matrix - 2009 Session

Subject	Bill Number	Patron	Short Title	Summary	Status
Automated System for the Electronic Preparation of Veterans' Disability Claims (JLC Obj 1)	HB1732	Cox	Veterans Services, Department of; processing of disability claims	Provides that, subject to the availability of sufficient nongeneral fund revenues, including, but not limited to, private donations and federal funds, the Department shall work in concert with applicable State and Federal agencies to develop and deploy an automated system for the electronic preparation of veterans' disability claims. The Commissioner shall ensure that the system is efficient and statutorily compliant.	01/30/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (97-Y 0-N) 02/16/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 House: Signed by Speaker 02/18/09 Senate: Signed by President
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (JLC Obj 2)	HB1727S1	Cole	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	Establishes a compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. The compact is currently in effect as at least 10 states have enacted the compact into law.	02/10/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N) 02/25/09 Senate: Passed Senate with substitute with amendment (39-Y 0-N)
Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries (JLC Obj 3)	SB1512	Edwards	Department of Veterans Services; burial vaults at state-operated veterans cemeteries	Requires the Department of Veterans Services to provide burial vaults at no costs to eligible veterans and family members interred at state-operated veterans cemeteries from such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for that purpose.	01/28/09 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (14-Y 0-N) 02/03/09 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/12/09 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations 02/13/09 House: Assigned App. sub: Public Safety (Heard in sub-committee on 2/18/09, but no action taken)
Military Family Relief Fund (JLC Obj 4)	HB2414	Bouchard	Individual income tax; subtraction for Virginia Military Family Relief Fund	Provides a subtraction when calculating Virginia taxable income for individuals who receive benefits under the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund	02/10/09 House: Left in Finance
	HB2512	Marsden	Individual income tax; subtraction for Virginia Military Family Relief Fund	Provides a subtraction when calculating Virginia taxable income for individuals who receive benefits under the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund	02/10/09 House: Left in Finance
Tax relief for 100% disabled veterans (JLC Obj 5)	HJ648	O'Bannon	Constitutional amendment (first resolution); property tax exemption for certain veterans	Directs the General Assembly to exempt from taxation real property that is the principal residence of a veteran (or widow or widower of a veteran) if the veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a 100 percent combat-related, permanent, and total disability.	02/06/09 House: Reported from Privileges and Elections with substitute (22-Y 0-N) 02/10/09 House: VOTE: --- ADOPTION (97-Y 0-N) 02/17/09 Senate: Reported from Privileges and Elections (15-Y 0-N) 02/20/09 Senate: Agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N)
	HJ669	Janis	Constitutional amendment; property tax exemptions for certain veterans	Provides that the General Assembly may authorize localities to exempt from taxation real property that is the principal residence of a veteran (or widow or widower of a veteran) if the veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a service-connected, permanent, and 100 percent total disability. This exemption is not limited to veterans deemed to be bearing an extraordinary tax burden in relation to their income and financial worth.	02/06/09 House: Incorporated by Privileges and Elections (HJ648-O'Bannon) by voice vote

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	SJ275	Puller/ Reynolds	Constitutional amendment (first resolution); property tax exemption for certain veterans	Authorizes the General Assembly to exempt from taxation real property that is the principal residence of a veteran (or widow or widower of a veteran) if the veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a service-connected, permanent, and 100 percent total disability.	01/27/09 Senate: Reported from Privileges and Elections with substitute (15-Y 0-N) 02/02/09 Senate: Agreed to by Senate (38-Y 0-N) 02/20/09 House: Reported from Privileges and Elections with amendment (22-Y 0-N) 02/24/09 House: VOTE: --- ADOPTION (99-Y 0-N)
	SJ304	Stuart	Constitutional amendment; property tax exemption for certain veterans (first reference)	Directs the General Assembly to exempt from taxation real property that is the principal residence of a veteran (or widow or widower of a veteran) if the veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a 100 percent combat-related, permanent, and total disability.	01/27/09 Senate: Incorporated by Privileges and Elections (SJ275-Puller) (14-Y 0-N)
Homeless Veterans Study (JLC Obj 6)	HJ727	Bouchard	Study; Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission; report	Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study ways to reduce homelessness among veterans in the Commonwealth	02/10/09 House: Left in Rules (However, Delegate Cox, the JLARC Chairman, has sent a letter to the JLARC Director, requesting that JLARC complete the study and report by 6/30/10)
Vehicles/Transportation	HB1611	Shuler	Veterans Memorial Bridge; designating as Interstate Route 64 bridge over Jackson River in Allegheny	Designates the Interstate Route 64 bridges over the Jackson River at approximately mile marker 19 in Allegheny County the "Veterans Memorial Bridge."	01/15/09 House: Reported from Transportation with amendment (21-Y 0-N) 01/20/09 House: VOTE: --- PASSAGE (89-Y 0-N) 02/19/09 Senate: Reported from Transportation with substitute (15-Y 0-N) 02/24/09 Senate: Passed Senate with substitute (39-Y 0-N)
	HB1667	Bowling	American Former Prisoners of War Memorial Highway	Extends the American Former Prisoners of War Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 19) northward from the Russell/Tazewell County line to U.S. Route 460 at Claypool.	01/23/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (97-Y 0-N) 02/16/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 House: Signed by Speaker 02/18/09 Senate: Signed by President
	HB2182	Phillips	Local vehicle license fees and taxes; veterans and their surviving spouses	Allows localities to exempt disabled veterans and the surviving spouses of veterans from local vehicle license fees and taxes.	01/27/09 House: Referred from Transportation by voice vote 02/06/09 House: Reported from Counties, Cities and Towns with amendments (22-Y 0-N) 02/10/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N) 02/19/09 Senate: Reported from Transportation (15-Y 0-N)
	HB2392	Bell	Special license plates; veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom	Authorizes the issuance of special license plates for veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom. These plates are not subject to the standard 350 minimum prepaid order requirement.	02/05/09 House: Incorporated by Transportation (HB2534-Scott, E.T.) by voice vote (NOTE: HB2534 passed the House 99-0 and the Senate 38-0, authorizing the issuance of special plates to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom)
	HB2399	Bell	License plates, special; issuance to Purple Heart recipients	Allows surviving parents of Purple Heart recipients to be issued Purple Heart license plates if the person to whom the decoration was awarded has no unremarried surviving spouse.	02/10/09 House: Left in Transportation
	HB2556	Ingram	Special license plates for disabled veterans; amends definition of disabled veteran	Amends the definition of "disabled veteran" in § 46.2-100 to allow any veteran who has a service-connected disability that would qualify him for receiving disabled parking license plates to receive disabled veteran license plates.	02/10/09 House: Left in Transportation

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	SB1200	Puckett	Local vehicle license fees and taxes; veterans and their surviving spouses	Allows localities to exempt disabled veterans and the surviving spouses of veterans from local vehicle license fees and taxes.	01/22/09 Senate: Rereferred from Transportation (13-Y 0-N) 01/27/09 Senate: Reported from Local Government (15-Y 0-N) 02/02/09 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (39-Y 0-N) 02/17/09 House: Reported from Transportation (21-Y 0-N)
	SB1526	Blevins	Special license plates; REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR	Authorizes the issuance of special license plates bearing the legend: REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR	02/05/09 Senate: Incorporated by Transportation (SB817-Stuart) (13-Y 0-N 2-A)
Veterans Education	HB1608	Poisson	Higher educational institutions; automatic acceptance of certain students applying for admission	Directs the governing boards of public institutions of higher education to provide for the automatic acceptance of those resident students applying for admission who have graduated from a public or private high school in Virginia with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of such student's graduating class and have been honorably discharged from service in the United States Armed Forces, the United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or the Virginia National Guard Reserve.	02/10/09 House: Left in Education
	HB1767	Dance	Honorary diplomas; requires Board of Education award to certain veterans of Vietnam War	Requires that the Board of Education award an honorary high school diploma to veterans of the Vietnam War who, as secondary school students, enlisted or were drafted to serve in any branch of the United States Armed Forces during the war between 1959 and 1975, were subsequently honorably discharged, and were unable to complete their secondary education upon return to civilian life.	02/02/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N) 02/16/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 House: Signed by Speaker 02/18/09 Senate: Signed by President
Hunting Licenses	HB1618	Merricks	Hunting permits, special; issued to patients from veterans or military hospitals.	Allows the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to permit any organized group of patients residing in or receiving outpatient treatment from a veterans or military hospital to hunt without having to obtain a license on any lands of the Commonwealth where it is otherwise legal to do so. Currently, the Director may only issue a special permit to allow such a group of persons to fish without a license in the public waters of the Commonwealth.	02/02/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N) 02/12/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/23/09 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 5 (effective 7/1/09)
	HB1666	Cole	Hunting permits, special; issued to patients from veterans or military hospitals.	Allows the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to permit any organized group of patients residing in or receiving outpatient treatment from a veterans or military hospital to hunt without having to obtain a license on any lands of the Commonwealth where it is otherwise legal to do so. Currently, the Director may only issue a special permit to allow such a group of persons to fish without a license in the public waters of the Commonwealth.	01/28/09 House: Incorporated by Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (HB1618-Merricks) by voice vote

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Virginia War Memorial	HB1875H1	Cosgrove	Virginia War Memorial; term killed in action to include any deployed active duty military personnel	Requires the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees to establish criteria for those name and homes of records to be engraved on the War Memorial. The bill specifies the issues that the Board must address in its criteria. The bill requires the Board to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2009.	02/05/09 House: Reported from General Laws with substitute (22-Y 0-N) 02/10/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (13-Y 0-N) 02/23/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)
	HB2192	Watts	Virginia War Memorial	Provides that the names and homes of record designation of all Virginians who while deployed in a designated combat area were killed in action, hostile casualties, or nonhostile casualties unrelated to self-inflicted wounds, who died as prisoners of war, or who are missing in action shall be placed in the Virginia War Memorial	02/05/09 House: Incorporated by General Laws (HB1875-Cosgrove) by voice vote
Veterans Employment	HB2439	Poisson	Income tax; honorably discharged veteran job creation tax credit	Provides an income tax credit to businesses for jobs created and filled by honorably discharged veterans. The amount of the credit for each such job is (i) two percent of each salary that is less than \$50,000 a year, and (ii) \$1,000 for each salary of \$50,000 and more a year. The credit is available for taxable years beginning January 1, 2009, but before January 1, 2014.	02/10/09 House: Left in Finance
Veterans Services Foundation	HB2199	Watts	Veterans Services Foundation; Board of Trustees	Provides that a member of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation may be removed by the appointing authority for that member. Currently any member may be removed by the Governor regardless of the appointing authority.	02/03/09 House: Reported from General Laws (22-Y 0-N) 02/06/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N) 02/20/09 Senate: Reported from Rules (15-Y 0-N) 02/24/09 Senate: Passed Senate (39-Y 0-N)
Department of Veterans Services	HB2279	Bowling	Department of Veterans Services; Commissioner; benefit claims assistance	Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to ensure that benefit claims assistance is provided on a regular basis at locations other than established service offices. Current law specifies that the personnel assigned by the Commissioner to process benefit claims at locations other than the service office at least one day per week.	02/06/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N) 02/16/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 House: Signed by Speaker 02/18/09 Senate: Signed by President

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	HB2639	Jones	Freedom of Information Act; exempts certain records of Department of Veterans Services, etc.	Exempts from the mandatory disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (i) personal information contained in the Veterans Care Center Resident Trust Funds concerning residents or patients of the Department of Veterans Services care centers and (ii) records maintained in connection with fundraising activities by the Veterans Services Foundation to the extent that such records reveal the address, electronic mail address, facsimile or telephone number, social security number or other identification number appearing on driver's license, or credit card or bank account data of identifiable donors, except that access shall not be denied to the person who is the subject of the record. The bill provides, however, that it shall not be construed to authorize the withholding of records relating to the amount, date, purpose, and terms of the pledge or donation, or the identity of the donor. Nor does the exclusion provided by the bill apply to protect from disclosure (i) the identities of sponsors providing grants to or contracting with the foundation for the performance of services or other work or (ii) the terms and conditions of such grants or	02/03/09 House: Reported from General Laws with amendments (22-Y 0-N) 02/06/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (13-Y 0-N) 02/23/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)
ROTC Programs	HR39	Cox	ROTC program; higher educational institutions encouraged to support by providing academic credit	Encourages the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to fully support the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs and provide the maximum recognition of ROTC courses for credits toward graduation.	01/19/09 House: Reported from Education (22-Y 0-N) 01/21/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (93-Y 0-N)
Virginia Retirement System	HB2128	Cox	Retirement System; modifies several provisions governing benefits of members disabled or killed	Modifies several provisions governing the benefits of members who are disabled or killed, to comport with the federal Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act ("HEART Act") for those members disabled or killed in action in the military.	01/30/09 House: Reported from Appropriations (24-Y 0-N) 02/05/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N) 02/17/09 Senate: Reported from Finance (16-Y 0-N) 02/19/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)
Homestead Exemption	HB2560	Johnson	Homestead exemption; veterans	Increases the additional homestead exemption for veterans from \$2,000 to \$10,000.	01/30/09 House: Reported from Courts of Justice with amendments (19-Y 0-N) 02/05/09 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N) 02/16/09 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (15-Y 0-N) 02/18/09 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)
Military Retirement Pay	HB2593	Frederick	Income tax, state; deduction for military retirement pay	Grants a deduction when calculating Virginia taxable income for military retirement pay for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2010. To the extent the age deduction is taken, this deduction will not be allowed.	02/10/09 House: Left in Finance

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<p>Discrimination</p>	<p>HB2385</p>	<p>Ebbin</p>	<p>Discrimination; prohibited in public employment based on race, color, religion, etc.</p>	<p>Prohibits discrimination in public employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a special disabled veteran or other veteran covered by the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended. The bill defines "sexual orientation" as a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression. The bill expressly provides that "sexual orientation" shall not include any person's attraction towards persons with whom sexual conduct would be illegal due to the age of the parties. The bill contains technical amendments.</p>	<p>02/10/09 House: Left in General Laws</p>
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