



March 2023 - #009 CDCA Newsletter

1. CDCA 2023 Update

CDCA is following the California legislative processes for legislation of interest to the California military community. Early advocacy and preparation for testimony will help with success. You may want to prepare, in your own words, letters of advocacy for legislation discussed in this newsletter. See the next item (#2) in this newsletter.

The 2023 California Defense Summit, an event conducted by the collaboration of the Association of Defense Communities, the Governor's Military Council and CDCA, is planned for May 24 and 25 at the Sheraton Hotel, Sacramento. Theme is "California Serves." Watch for details as the planning is finalized.

2. California 2023/2024 Legislation

The following are the Legislative Counsel's digest of bills affecting the military and veterans. Of particular interest are Assembly Bill 46 affecting military retirement taxation and Assembly Bill 444, California Defense Community Infrastructure Program.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3 Offshore Wind Energy

Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, in coordination with relevant federal, state, and local agencies, to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast in federal waters, and requires the commission to submit the strategic plan to the Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June 30, 2023. Existing law requires the commission, on or before June 1, 2022, to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and to establish megawatt offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045. Existing law requires the commission, in coordination with specified state entities, to work with stakeholders, other state, local, and federal agencies, and the offshore wind energy industry to identify suitable sea space for wind energy

areas in federal waters sufficient to accommodate those offshore wind planning goals. Existing law requires the commission, in coordination with relevant state and local agencies, based on those identified sea spaces, to develop a plan to improve waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities. Existing law requires the commission, in consultation with specified state entities, to assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary to support those offshore wind planning goals. Existing law requires the commission to develop and produce a permitting roadmap that describes timeframes and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast of California. Existing law repeals these provisions on January 1, 2027.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to accelerate the approval, implementation, and operation of offshore wind energy projects necessary to meet California's climate action goals and the transition to a clean energy economy, clarify the authority of California governmental agencies related to the analysis and selection of feasible alternatives for seawater ports and transmission infrastructure improvements required to construct wind energy projects along the California coast, and specify criteria for the analysis and selection of port and transmission alternatives related to offshore wind energy projects to ensure the protection of the environment and sensitive habitats and robust community participation and comment, to keep the maximum number of jobs related to the construction of offshore wind energy projects in California, and to achieve environmental justice goals.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 13 Election Day Holiday: Voting by Mail

AB 13, as amended, Essayli. Elections: Election Day holiday: voting by mail.

(1) Existing law requires the statewide general election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. Existing law designates specific days as holidays in this state.

This bill would add the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of any even-numbered year to the list of state holidays. By increasing the duties of local officials in connection with the creation of a new state holiday, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law requires county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter for all elections, as provided. Existing law authorizes any county to conduct an all-mailed ballot election if certain requirements are met. Existing law also authorizes military and overseas voters to vote by mail.

This bill would repeal the provisions requiring county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter and authorizing a county to conduct an all-mailed ballot election. The bill would instead authorize a voter who is not a military or overseas voter to request a vote by mail ballot only if the voter has an illness or disability that prevents the voter from going to the polls on the date of the election. To receive a vote by mail ballot, a voter who has an illness or disability would be required to submit an application, signed under penalty of perjury, that is received by the county elections official at least 7 days before the date of the election. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. to request a vote by mail ballot for any election, as specified. The bill would also authorize a voter to apply to become a permanent vote by mail voter, in which case the voter would receive a vote by mail ballot for every election.

(3) Existing law authorizes a voter who is unable to return their ballot to designate any other person to return the ballot, as specified.

This bill would restrict the persons a voter may authorize to return the voter's ballot to only the voter's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or a person residing in the same household as the voter.

(4) Under existing law, a ballot is timely cast if it is received by the elections official no later than 7 days after election day and postmarked on or before election day.

This bill would reduce the deadline for receiving a ballot to 3 days after election day.

(5) This bill would make various conforming and clarifying changes.

(6) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 46 Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act

AB 46, as introduced, Ramos. Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

The Personal Income Tax Law imposes a tax on individual taxpayers measured by the taxpayer's taxable income for the taxable year, but excludes certain items of income from the computation of tax, including an exclusion for combat-related special compensation.

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034, would exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034, would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

Existing law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain, among other things, specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements.

This bill also would include additional information required for any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide any data requested by the Legislative Analyst to write the report, and would make taxpayer information received by the Legislative Analyst subject to limitation on the collection and use of that information. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 284 Annual Report: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program

Existing law establishes the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program for the purpose of providing jurisdictions, as defined, with one-time grant funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges, as specified. Under existing law, grants under the HHAP program are allocated in 4 rounds of funding, administered by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, as provided.

Existing law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to submit an annual report to the Governor and both houses of the Legislature on the operations and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year of the housing programs administered by the department. Existing law requires that the report include, among other things, the number of units assisted by those programs and the number of individuals and households served and their income level.

This bill would additionally require that this report include an evaluation of the HHAP program.

ASSEMBLY BILL 293: Lifetime Hunting and Sport Licenses: Gold Star Family Members

Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue lifetime hunting licenses and lifetime sport fishing licenses, and grants certain lifetime privileges to holders of those licenses, upon the one-time payment of specified fees.

This bill would require, upon application to the department, lifetime hunting licenses and lifetime sport fishing licenses to be issued at no cost to Gold Star Family members who meet certain eligibility requirements.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 298 Monument to Blind Veterans

Existing law provides for various memorials and monuments within the State Capitol Building and on the State Capitol grounds. Existing law prescribes various duties of the Department of General Services in connection with the development and maintenance of the State Capitol Building and grounds.

This bill would authorize a nonprofit organization that represents blind veterans, in consultation with the Department of General Services, to plan, construct, and maintain a braille American flag to serve as a monument to the blind veterans of California and the United States in the State Capitol Building. The bill would specify duties for the Department of General Services in connection with the planning, construction, and maintenance of the monument. The bill would prohibit the construction of the monument until the Joint Rules Committee of the California Legislature approves and adopts a plan for the monument and the committee and the Department of Finance determine that sufficient private funding is available to construct and maintain the monument.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 322 Veteran and California National Guard Supplemental Orientation Act of 2023

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the

Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in the state.

This bill, commencing no later than the 2025–26 academic year, would require the California State University and the California Community Colleges, and if the Regents of the University of California adopt a resolution to make it applicable, the University of California to develop and include within first-year student orientation a supplemental module of services and resources available for students who are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and members of the California National Guard, as provided.

By imposing new duties on community college districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 398 Voting: Replacement Ballots

Existing law requires an elections official to provide a 2nd vote by mail voter ballot to any voter upon receipt of a statement under penalty of perjury that the voter has failed to receive, lost, or destroyed their original ballot.

This bill would remove the requirement that the voter provide a statement under penalty of perjury, and instead require the elections official to provide a replacement ballot upon request.

Amended election code: If any military or overseas voter to whom a vote by mail ballot has been mailed and which ballot has not been voted by him or her then returns to the county in which he or she is they are registered, or for a military or overseas voter qualified pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 321, to the county in which the applicant's parent or legal guardian resided when the parent or legal guardian last lived within the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia on or before election day, he or she they may apply for a second vote by mail replacement ballot pursuant to Section 3014. The elections official shall then issue another vote by mail ballot to the voter, or the elections official shall certify to the precinct board that the voter is eligible to vote in the election.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 444 California Defense Community Infrastructure Program

Existing law establishes within state government the Office of Planning and Research as the comprehensive state planning agency for long-range planning and research. Existing law, until January 1, 2026, establishes within state government a Governor's Military Council that serves under the direction of the Military Department to advise the Governor on efforts to retain military installations and operations within this state that are necessary for the defense of the nation, and to coordinate and focus those efforts.

This bill would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program, which would require the Office of Planning and Research, to grant funds to local agencies to assist with matching fund requirements in applications for funds from the federal Defense Community Infrastructure Program. The

bill would require the office, in consultation with the Governor’s Military Council, to develop guidelines for the program that, where possible, align with the guidelines of the federal program.

This bill would require the office to use specified project criteria, define an eligible project, as specified; rank eligible projects, as specified; and award grants based on the available funds. The bill would require the office to give priority to projects located in, or that would provide services to people who live in a disadvantaged community, as defined.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 684 County Veterans Services Officers: Additional Resources

Existing law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veterans service officer, and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veterans service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions.

This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, provide a stipend to counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of maintaining a county veterans service officer, at least part time, at each active United States military base in the county, subject to base approval.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 714 Pupil Instruction [child of military family]

AB 714, as introduced, McCarty. Pupil instruction: newcomer pupils: curriculum frameworks: high school coursework and graduation requirements: exemptions and alternatives.

(1) Existing law, subject to an appropriation of funds for this purpose in the annual Budget Act, requires the State Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the State Department of Education, to administer the California Newcomer Education and Well-Being Program (CalNEW) to provide services for newcomer pupils, English learners, and immigrant families by allocating funding to school districts, as specified. Existing law, for the purposes of CalNEW, defines “newcomer pupils” as individuals 3 through 21 years of age who were not born in any state and have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation of funds for its purposes, require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services, to (A) develop and issue guidance regarding requirements, best practices, and available state and federally funded programs for newcomer pupils, (B) publicly report on an annual basis on its internet website the enrollment and performance of newcomer pupils, and (C) maintain at least one position dedicated to supporting local educational agencies, including charter schools, in serving newcomer pupils, as provided.

(2) Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation of funds for its purposes, require the commission to consider including content designed to provide teachers with resources to meet the unique academic and English language development needs of newcomer pupils at all grade levels at the next regularly scheduled revision of the curriculum framework in English Language Arts and English Language Development. The bill would also require the commission to ensure that the instructional materials for pupils in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, that it recommends to the state board for adoption include resources to help teachers meet the needs of newcomer pupils.

(3) Existing law defines “a pupil participating in a newcomer program” as a pupil who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency. Existing law requires local educational agencies to exempt a pupil participating in a newcomer program and who is in their 3rd or 4th year of high school from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing body of the local educational agency that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements necessary to receive a diploma of graduation from high school, unless the local educational agency makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the local educational agency’s graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil’s 4th year of high school. Existing law requires local educational agencies to comply with other procedures in relation to pupils participating in newcomer programs, including, among other things, consultation and notice provisions. Existing law requires local educational agencies to issue, and new local educational agencies to accept, full or partial credit for all full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by a pupil participating in a newcomer program while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school, as provided.

This bill would require that local educational agencies comply with the above-described coursework exemptions, pupil consultation and notice requirements, acceptance of coursework completed at other schools, and other requirements for newcomer pupils, as defined, instead of for pupils participating in a newcomer program. By imposing new duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(4) Existing law prohibits a middle or high school pupil who is classified as an English learner from being denied participation in the standard instructional program of a school, as provided. Existing law authorizes certain pupils to be denied access to enrollment in courses that are part of the standard instructional program, including middle school or high schools pupils classified as English learners and who have recently arrived in the United States or who are participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency, as provided.

This bill instead would authorize a middle or high school pupil who is classified as an English learner and who is a newcomer pupil, as defined, or is participating in a program designed to meet the transitional needs of newcomer pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency to be denied access to enrollment in courses that are part of the standard instructional program, as provided. By imposing new requirements on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 883 Department of Defense SkillBridge Program

AB 883, as introduced, Mathis. Business licenses: United States Department of Defense SkillBridge program.

Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs under the direction of the Director of Consumer Affairs and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the administration of the various boards under its jurisdiction that license and regulate various professions and vocations.

Existing law requires a board to expedite, and authorizes a board to assist, in the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged. Existing law authorizes a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer those provisions.

This bill would additionally require a board to expedite, and authorize a board to assist, in the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant is enrolled in the United States Department of Defense SkillBridge program, as specified.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 953 Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction and Sustainable Shipping Program

Existing law establishes the Ocean Protection Council in state government to, among other things, establish policies to coordinate the collection, evaluation, and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and ocean resources among agencies. Existing law requires the council to develop and implement a voluntary sustainable seafood promotion program for the state, to consist of specified components, including a competitive grant and loan program for eligible entities, including, but not limited to, fishery groups and associations, for the purpose of assisting California fisheries in qualifying for certification to internationally accepted standards for sustainable seafood.

This bill would require the council, on or before May 1, 2025, in coordination with various entities, including the State Air Resources Board [and air quality management districts along the coast and in consultation with the federal Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Navy, and the State Air Resources Board,] develop and implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts. The bill would require the program to include specified components, including, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, financial incentives to program participants based on a percentage of distance traveled by a participating vessel through a vessel speed reduction zone, as provided. The bill would require the council, on or before December 31, 2026, to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of the program.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1097 Credit History of Persons Receiving Government Rent Subsidies

AB 1097, as introduced, Luz Rivas. Credit history of persons receiving government rent subsidies.

Existing law, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), prohibits, in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy, the use of a financial or income standard in assessing eligibility for the rental of housing that is not based on the portion of the rent to be paid by the tenant. FEHA requires the Civil Rights Department to enforce specific provisions of the act, including the provision described above.

This bill would additionally prohibit the use of a person's credit history as part of the application process for a rental housing accommodation without offering the applicant the option of providing alternative evidence of financial responsibility and ability to pay in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy. The bill would require the housing provider to consider that alternative evidence in lieu of the person's credit history in determining whether to offer the rental accommodation to the applicant.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1143 Military: Lending Protections

AB 1143, as introduced, Chen. Military: lending protections.

Federal law provides various protections regarding credit extended to members of the Armed Forces called to active duty, including, among others, limitations on the interest charged and mandatory disclosures. Existing law makes a security interest in personal property, other than specified modes of transportation, void if it would cause a loan procured by a covered member in the course of purchasing the personal property to be exempt from the federal protections. Existing law also makes a security interest in a motor vehicle void if it would cause a loan procured by a covered member to be exempt from the federal protections and that loan also funds the purchase of a credit insurance product or credit-related ancillary product.

This bill would exempt from those provisions loans that comply with specified provisions of those federal protections.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1605 Military Services Access: United States Space Force

AB 1605, as introduced, Gallagher. High schools: military services access: United States Space Force.

Existing law prohibits each school district offering instruction in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, that provides on-campus access to employers, from prohibiting access to the military services. Existing law defines “military services” for these purposes to include the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, or any reserve component of those federal forces, the National Guard, the State Guard, and the active militia.

This bill would expressly include the United States Space Force in that definition.

SENATE BILL NO. 73 Voluntary Veterans’ Preference

SB 73, as introduced, Seyarto. Employment policy: voluntary veterans’ preference.

Under existing law, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or applicable security regulations established by the United States or the State of California, to refuse to hire or employ a person or to refuse to select a person for a training program leading to employment, or to bar or discharge a person from employment or a training program leading to employment, or to discriminate against a person in compensation or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of the race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status of that person. FEHA provides that nothing in that act relating to discrimination on account of sex affects the right of an employer to use veteran status as a factor in employee selection or to give special consideration to Vietnam-era veterans. FEHA is enforced by the Civil Rights Department, which is in the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, and is under the direction of an executive officer known as the Director of Civil Rights.

This bill would enact the Voluntary Veterans’ Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans’ preference employment policy, to be applied uniformly to hiring decisions, to give a voluntary preference for hiring a veteran over another qualified

applicant. The bill would require a private employer with a veterans' preference employment policy to annually report to the Civil Rights Department the number of veterans hired under the preference policy and any demographic information about those veterans that the employer obtained in response to the department's reporting requirements. Under the bill, failure to submit that report would render any preference granted by the employer ineligible for the protections provided by this bill.

This bill would provide that the granting of a veterans' preference pursuant to the bill, in and of itself, shall be deemed not to violate any local or state equal employment opportunity law or regulation, including, but not limited to, the antidiscrimination provisions of FEHA. The bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist any private employer in determining if an applicant is a veteran, to the extent permitted by law. The bill would prohibit a veterans' preference employment policy from being established or applied for the purpose of discriminating against an employment applicant on the basis of a protected classification, as specified.

SENATE BILL NO. 82 Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: eligibility letters

SB 82, as introduced, Seyarto. Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: eligibility letters.

Existing property tax law provides, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran or a veteran's spouse, including an unmarried surviving spouse, if the veteran, because of an injury incurred in military service, is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled, as those terms are defined, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service.

This bill would require a county assessor to accept both original and electronically generated letters of service-connected disability, as defined, for purposes of verifying eligibility for the above-described exemption. By imposing duties on local tax officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SENATE BILL NO. 228 Civilian Youth Opportunities Program

SB 228, as introduced, Roth. Civilian youth opportunities program.

Existing law authorizes the Adjutant General to conduct a civilian youth opportunities program, known as the "National Guard Youth ChalleNge Program," consisting of a residential program and post-residential mentoring to serve at-risk teens in areas of the state, including, but not limited to, the San Joaquin Valley and northern California, as specified.

This bill would require the Adjutant General to additionally conduct that program in western Riverside County.

SENATE BILL NO. 267 Credit History of Persons Receiving Government Rent Subsidies

SB 267, as introduced, Eggman. Credit history of persons receiving government rent subsidies. Existing law, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), prohibits, in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy, the use of a financial or income standard in assessing eligibility for the rental of housing that is not based on the portion of the rent to be paid by the tenant. FEHA requires the Civil Rights Department to enforce specific provisions of the act, including the provision described above.

This bill would additionally prohibit the use of a person's credit history as part of the application process for a rental housing accommodation without offering the applicant the option of providing alternative evidence of financial responsibility and ability to pay in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy. The bill would require the housing provider to consider that alternative evidence in lieu of the person's credit history in determining whether to offer the rental accommodation to the applicant.

SENATE BILL NO. 726 Property Taxation: Exemption: Disabled Veteran Homeowners

The California Constitution provides that all property is taxable, and requires that it be assessed at the same percentage of fair market value, unless otherwise provided by the California Constitution or federal law. The California Constitution and existing property tax law provide various exemptions from taxation, including, among others, a disabled veterans' exemption and a veterans' organization exemption.

This bill would exempt from taxation, on that part of the full value of the residence that does not exceed \$863,790, as provided, property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, if the veteran is 100% disabled. The bill would provide an unmarried surviving spouse a property exemption in the same amount that they would have been entitled to if the veteran was alive and if certain conditions are met. The bill would require certain documentation to be provided to the county assessor to receive the exemption and would prohibit any other real property tax exemption from being granted to the claimant if receiving the exemption provided by the provisions of this bill. The bill would make these exemptions applicable for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2024, but occurring before January 1, 2034. By imposing additional duties on local tax officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Existing law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain, among other things, specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements.

This bill would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to apply those requirements to the bill and would set forth specified information relating to those requirements.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Existing law requires the state to reimburse local agencies annually for certain property tax revenues lost as a result of any exemption or classification of property for purposes of ad valorem property taxation.

This bill would provide that, notwithstanding those provisions, no appropriation is made and the state shall not reimburse local agencies for property tax revenues lost by them pursuant to the bill. This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

SENATE BILL NO. 811 Teacher Credentialing: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

SB 811, as introduced, Jones. Teacher credentialing: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other duties, establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits. Under existing law, California is a party to The Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel, a compact designed to support the movement of teachers and other professional educational personnel among the states party to it, and to authorize specific interstate educational personnel contracts to achieve that end.

This bill would ratify the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the mobility of teachers across the member states, with the goal of supporting teachers through a new pathway to licensure. The compact would, among other things, require member states, in their sole discretion, to make certain determinations about teacher licensure for teachers from other member states, as provided, and create and establish a joint public agency known as the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission. This compact would only become effective if the compact statute is enacted into law in ten member states, as provided.

SENATE BILL NO. 838 Victim Compensation: Use of Force by a Law Enforcement Officer

SB 838, as introduced, Menjivar. Victim compensation: use of force by a law enforcement officer.

Existing law provides for the compensation of victims and derivative victims of specified types of crimes by the California Victim Compensation Board from the Restitution Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, for specified losses suffered as a result of those crimes. Existing law defines various terms for purposes of these provisions, including “crime,” which includes any public offense wherever it may take place that would constitute a misdemeanor or felony.

This bill would revise the definition of “crime” to include, solely for the purposes of eligibility for compensation under this chapter, an incident occurring on or after January 1, 2024, in which an individual sustains serious bodily injury, as defined, or death as a result of a law enforcement officer’s use of force, regardless of whether the law enforcement officer is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of committing a crime. The bill would define “law enforcement officer” for these purposes. By expanding the types of incidents for which compensation can be paid from a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

Existing law requires that a person be ineligible for compensation under specified conditions, including, among other things, if the board determines that denial of the claim for compensation is appropriate because of the nature of the victim’s involvement in the events leading to the crime or the involvement of the person whose injury or death gives rise to the application. Existing law requires the board to deny an application if it finds that the victim failed to cooperate reasonably with a law enforcement agency in the apprehension and conviction of the person committing the crime.

This bill, in the case of a claim based on a victim’s serious bodily injury or death that resulted from a law enforcement officer’s use of force, as described above, would prohibit the board from denying an application based on certain circumstances, including the victim’s or other applicant’s involvement in the crime, except as specified, the victim’s failure to cooperate, or the contents of a police report, or the lack

thereof. The bill, in the case of a claim based on a victim's serious bodily injury or death as a result of a crime, would require the board to adopt guidelines that allow the board to rely on evidence other than a police report, as specified.

Existing law requires that the board be subrogated to the rights of the recipient to the extent of any compensation granted by the board.

This bill would specify that the above-described subrogation of the board applies to compensation by the board for any claim, including a claim based on serious bodily injury or death that resulted from a law enforcement officer's use of force.

3. The Positive Economic Impact of Military on Our Communities

Communities with a strong military presence have the financial benefit of stable revenue while communities with a dependency on travel, tourism, conventions and related spending face unprecedented revenue challenges for local government and citizens. You can reinforce the financial contribution of military salaries, spending and investment in your communities. A state impact report is available. Member organizations continue to assess their own communities.

2022 National Security Economic Impact in California

The *2022 California Statewide & Regional National Security Economic Impacts* report on federal national security spending was released by the State of California. The California Research Bureau of the California State Library prepared the report for the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Governor's Military Council. The report relies primarily on data from the Department of Defense, Homeland Security and Veteran's Affairs.

The national security activity (2021 data) results in \$158.2 billion in economic impact and support more than 762,000 full time equivalent jobs in California. Economic activity occurs in every region of the state, from major coastal areas like San Diego and Los Angeles to small, inland communities, like Bridgeport, El Centro and Ridgecrest.

The report is available at:

https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8

4. Spotlight on a member: Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century

RDP-21 is Ventura County's community-based organization that advocates for and supports the county's military facilities and defense contractors as community assets and essential to national defense.

Ventura County's military commands and defense contractors, which total more than 22,000 employees among military, federal, civilian and contractor jobs and generates about \$4.1 billion annually to the regional economy.

RDP-21 is a working partnership that includes elected officials from the County of Ventura and the 10 cities in the county, retired federal and state political leaders, senior military officials, defense contractors, local colleges and others. The organization supports, advocates and facilitates among the military, private enterprise and government to preserve Ventura County's military assets and regional economy.

RDP-21 is a collaborative partnership of representatives, including:

- Ventura County Board of Supervisors and mayors and city council members of the county's 10 cities
Elected and retired federal and state political leaders and representatives
- Senior base officials and retired military and senior Navy executives
- Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County (EDC-VC), local chambers of commerce and the Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA)
- Navy Industry Council
- California State University, Channel Islands and Ventura County community colleges
- Broad-based citizen representation.

RDP-21 links the military in Ventura County to a broad network of support that includes all community and industry sectors of the region.

5. CDCA Executive Board

In compliance with the CDCA Bylaws, the Board of Directors held an election of officers for the 2021/2022 fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Board membership is comprised of one representative from each of the Community Support Organizations and Local Government Support Organizations. The officers of the corporation and board are the Co-Chairs, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. Due to the nature of the organization and corporation and the possible movement of people in leadership and within the membership groups, the Board of Directors has two co-chairpersons of equal status and responsibility for the purpose of continuity in the management of the corporation. The Executive Board members are the two Co-Chairpersons, Treasurer, Secretary, and two members appointed by the Board. The Co-Chairs are Mark Balmert of SDMAC and David Janiec of the China Lake Alliance. Treasurer is Sandy Person of Travis Community Consortium. Secretary is Gene Fisher of Regional Defense Partnership. Member at Large is Hans Uslar of Monterey Bay Defense Alliance. One Member at Large position is open.

6. CDCA points of contact

Feel free to contact the co-chairs, Mark Balmert of SDMAC and David Janiec of the China Lake Alliance.

The web site is www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org. Twitter: @CaDefenseComm. (Take a look at these for the latest CDCA news.)

Mailing address is 1017 “L” Street #398, Sacramento, CA 95814

6. Tools and Resources

OLDCC California Spending

[https://oldcc.gov/sites/default/files/FY2021 Defense Spending_CA.pdf](https://oldcc.gov/sites/default/files/FY2021%20Defense%20Spending_CA.pdf)

California State Library report *2022 California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts Study*

https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8

California State Library *2022 Counties Supplement*

https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20211208-2020_Counties_Supplement_CA_Statewide_National_Security_Economic_Impacts.pdf

California Economic Data

https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/s_economicdata/

California Legislation text and status

<https://www.legislature.ca.gov>

Membership

For membership, see the CDCA web site www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org or contact any Executive Board member.

About CDCA

More than a dozen nonprofit organizations formed the California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA) with the shared mission of supporting Department of Defense presence in communities throughout California while advocating on behalf of active duty and veterans in their communities. Organizations work together under the CDCA umbrella to advance collaboration and communication among the military, elected officials, and other community leaders to enhance an understanding of the many contributions Defense organizations make to California. CDCA mission is to support, promote, and represent the interests of our Defense Organizations throughout California while advocating on behalf of those that serve or have served in these organizations. CDCA will advance the collaboration and communication between the military, our elected and appointed officials, and our communities while working to enhance the recognition of the many contributions Defense Organizations make to California and our Nation