

## **California VFW Legislative Report–8-16-10**

***William Manes, State Legislative/PAC Chairman***

This is an update report for veterans' issues pending in the State Legislature as of this date.

The following bills have now been passed by both the Assembly and the Senate and are ready for action by the Governor:

AB 1644 Veterans remains. (Jim Nielsen, Biggs. Principal Coauthor: Juan Arambula, Fresno. Coauthors, Assembly: Sam Blakeslee, San Luis Obispo; Marty Block, San Diego; Robert Blumenfield, Van Nuys; Steven Bradford, Inglewood; Connie Conway, Visalia; Chuck DeVore, Irvine; Nathan Fletcher, San Diego; Danny Gilmore, Hanford; Diane Harkey, Laguna Niguel; Curt Hagman, Diamond Bar; Fiona Ma, San Francisco; Roger Niello, Sacramento; and Chris Norby, Brea. Coauthors, Senate: Sam Aanestad, Grass Valley; Dave Cox, Fair Oaks; Jeff Denham, Merced; Abel Maldonado, Santa Maria; and George Runner, Antelope Valley.)

Would allow specified entities in possession of the cremated remains of a veteran to release the remains to a veterans' service organization for proper burial.

AB 1729 Civil service examinations: veterans' preference. (Mariko Yamada, Davis)

Would permit a member of the Armed Forces, upon successfully passing a state civil service examination, to be awarded the additional veterans' credit up to 12 months after the establishment of the employment list

AB 1729 Civil service examinations: veterans' preference. (Mariko Yamada, Davis)

Would permit a member of the Armed Forces, upon successfully passing a state civil service examination, to be awarded the additional veterans' credit up to 12 months after the establishment of the employment list

AB 1908 Vehicles: specialized license plates: Veterans Organizations. (Paul Cook, Yucaipa; Wilmer Carter, Rialto)

Would allow the California Department of Veterans Affairs to modify the design of the veteran license plates in order to make the plates more marketable to non veterans The purpose of this bill is to increase revenues and raise funds for county veteran office services.

AB 1944 Vehicles: special license plates: disabled veterans. (Nathan Fletcher, San Diego)

Has gone through a series of amendments with the basic objective of modifying the current procedures for veterans to obtain disable veteran license plates or placards to permit them to use the certification of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concerning their disability rather than requiring an additional examination and certification by another medical provider.

SB 1057 State holidays: Veterans Day: state office closure. (Jeff Denham, Merced. Coauthors, Senate: Abel Maldonado, Santa Maria; Patricia Wiggins, Santa Rosa. Coauthors, Assembly: Anthony Adams, Hesperia; Mike Davis, Los Angeles; Chuck DeVore, Irvine; Danny Gilmore, Hanford; Stephen Knight, Lancaster; and Jim Nielsen, Biggs.)

Requires Veterans' Day to be observed by all state agencies on the actual date of November 11. If this date falls on a Saturday, the holiday will be observed the previous Friday. If the date occurs on Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the following Monday.

The following bill has passed the Assembly, has completed all Committee hearings in the Senate, and will have a floor vote very soon. Because of the approvals by the committees, the bill will most certainly pass and be sent to the Governor within the next couple of weeks:

AB 1088 Taxpayer contributions: California Veterans Fund. (Nathan Fletcher, San Diego. Coauthors: Marty Block, San Diego; Connie Conway, Visalia; Chuck DeVore, Irvine; Danny Gilmore, Hanford; V. Manuel Perez, Cathedral City; Brian Nestande, Palm Deser)

Would authorize a check off on the State income tax forms for the California Veterans Fund which would replace the previous fund and would have the same purpose of providing support to the MWR Funds for the state veterans homes.

Complete information on all state legislation involving veterans issues is available at the website:

<http://www.califveterans.com>