

VETERANS

VETERAN AND AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ISSUES IN 2018

The United States owes a great debt of gratitude to service members, veterans, and military families. While we can never fully repay them for their service and sacrifice, a number of pieces of legislation aiming to support Illinois veterans and military families were signed into law in 2018.

HB 4576/PA 100-0812: Creates Combat Action Ribbon or Combat Action Badge license plates.

SB 2225/PA 100-0820: Creates Operation Desert Shield/Storm license plates.

HB 4954/PA 100-0817: Provides that Nov. 4th of each year is designated as "G.I. Bill of Rights Day."

SB 3192/PA 100-0941: Changes Gold Star Family Day designation to the day before Gold Star Mothers' Day (last Sunday in September).

HB 4288/PA 100-0826: Allows members of the National Guard from any state to be eligible for a veterans preference; however, Illinois National Guard members will be given priority over any other state.

HB 4848/PA 100-0814: Mandates that health-care facilities and practitioners provide a free copy of a homeless veteran's medical records.

SB 2658/PA 100-0821: Makes a provisional educator endorsement for a service member or spouse good for three years.

HB 5683/PA 100-0608: If the Department of Veterans' Affairs purchases a nursing home in the city of Quincy for the purpose of housing veterans, then that housing will fall under the purview of the Department.

SB 3128/PA 100-0610: The CDB and the DVA may use design-build contracting in projects for the Quincy Veterans' Home.

HB 4317/PA 100-0616: If a service member who has entered into certain residential leases is killed in action or while on active duty, then the immediate family or dependents of the service member may terminate the lease.

HB 4332/PA 100-0811: A Department of Defense form DD-2 (Retired), an identification card issued under the federal Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015, or a United States Department of Veterans Affairs summary of benefits letter are acceptable forms of proof when issuing an identification card with a veteran designation.

HB 5784/PA 100-1103: The Department of Veterans' Affairs must submit a biannual report to the General Assembly about the health and welfare of residents at the Veterans' Homes.

SB 3193/PA 100-0942: A non-veteran spouse shall have the same priority as a veteran of admission to a veterans home if the spouse and his or her veteran spouse are admitted at the same time to live together at the veterans home.

SB 2306/PA 100-0869: Provides that the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities shall be prorated if the person qualifying for the exemption does not occupy the qualified residence as of January 1 of the taxable year.



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Local Veterans Services Offices:

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Look up info here: <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/ServiceOffices.aspx>

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