



JIM DESMOND
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2019 APR 19 PM 12:00
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

20

DATE: April 30, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE VETERANS SERVICES LEGISLATION
(AB 55, AB 408 AND AB 1588) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego is home to the nation's largest concentration of military personnel, with over one-third of county residents connected to the military. As of 2018, there are 143,000 active duty service members and over 241,000 veterans who reside in San Diego County. The need for adequate services and support is critical, especially as the veteran population grows annually with an average of approximately 7,000 active duty service members deciding to settle in San Diego County after leaving the military.

There are currently three State Assembly Bills moving through the legislative process that, if approved, would enhance services that support veterans to achieve successful reintegration into civilian life. First, State Assembly Bill 55 (AB 55), introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, would appropriate \$11 million annually from the State General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be available for allocation to counties to fund the activities of county veterans service officers.

Second, State Assembly Bill 408 (AB 408), introduced by Assembly Member Jim Frazier, would require the California Department of Motor Vehicles to accept a certificate from a county veterans service officer in addition to the US Department of Veterans Affairs that certifies that the applicant for a special license plate or placard is a disabled veteran.

Third, State Assembly Bill 1588 (AB 1588), introduced by Assembly Members Todd Gloria and Adam Gray, would require the State Water Resources Control Board to provide full equivalent experience credit for tasks performed during military service directly related to the operation of water or wastewater facilities to members of the military and military service veterans applying for California water and wastewater certifications. Additionally, AB 1588 would require members of the military or military service veterans to receive equivalent educational credits for serving in certain military occupational specialties.

These legislative proposals will positively impact veterans in San Diego County by providing additional funding for county veterans service officers (CVSOs), offering better service to disabled

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE VETERANS SERVICES LEGISLATION
(AB 55, AB 408 AND AB1588) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

veterans, and ensuring veterans receive appropriate certification credit for experience and education gained during military service when transitioning into civilian water and wastewater industries.

With today's action, the Board of Supervisors will take a position in support of each one of these legislative proposals.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 55 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that would provide adequate State and federal funding for programs that support veterans.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 408 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that would allow county veterans service officers to complete the certification required by the State Department of Motor Vehicles to certify that an applicant for a special license plate or placard is a disabled veteran.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 1588 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento.
6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that requires hiring managers to provide equivalent experience and educational credit to members of the military and military service veterans who performed tasks during military service that are directly related to the duties of the available position.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE VETERANS SERVICES LEGISLATION
(AB 55, AB 408 AND AB1588) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

BACKGROUND

The County of San Diego is home to the nation's largest concentration of military personnel, with over one-third of county residents connected to the military. As of 2018, there are 143,000 active duty service members and over 241,000 veterans who reside in San Diego County. The need for adequate services and support is critical, especially as the veteran population grows annually with an average of approximately 7,000 active duty service members deciding to settle in San Diego County after leaving the military. There are currently three State Assembly Bills moving through the legislative process that, if approved, would enhance services that support veterans in achieving successful reintegration into civilian life.

State Assembly Bill 55 (AB 55), introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, would appropriate \$11 million annually from the State General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be available for allocation to counties to fund the activities of county veterans service officers. The proposed \$11 million appropriation represents a \$5.4 million increase from the current \$5.6 million appropriation.

AB 55 would better assist veterans and their dependents' access to claim federal, state and local benefits by increasing the funding available for the county programs authorized to assist veterans in this manner. Counties employ trained, accredited CVSOs who assist veterans and their families in navigating the claims process and connect veterans with benefits provided by federal, state and local governments. By increasing the funding available for veterans' services, AB 55 enables San Diego County to better serve the growing number of veterans who seek benefits more effectively and efficiently.

State Assembly Bill 408 (AB 408), introduced by Assembly Member Jim Frazier, would require the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to accept verification from a county veterans service officer in addition to the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that certifies that the applicant for a special license plate or placard is a disabled veteran. AB 408 allows CVSOs to better serve disabled veterans by offering an alternative to waiting for approval from the VA, which can take time since there is currently a backlog of these lower-priority requests. Additionally, AB 408 could create opportunities for CVSOs to connect disabled veterans to other services they may be entitled to receive.

Existing law requires the DMV to issue special license plates or distinguishing placards to disabled veterans for purposes of certain parking privileges. In issuing a special license plate or placard to a disabled veteran, existing law requires the DMV to accept as proof of disability a certificate from the VA certifying that the applicant is a disabled veteran.

State Assembly Bill 1588 (AB 1588), introduced by Assembly Members Todd Gloria and Adam Gray, would require the State Water Resources Control Board to provide full equivalent experience credit for tasks performed during military service directly related to the operation of water or wastewater facilities to members of the military and military service veterans applying for California water and wastewater certifications. Additionally, AB 1588 would require members of the military or military service veterans to receive equivalent educational credits for serving in certain military occupational specialties.

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE VETERANS SERVICES LEGISLATION
(AB 55, AB 408 AND AB1588) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Water and wastewater industries are experiencing aging infrastructure and a retiring workforce. Projections of demand for water operators are fueled by a recent industry report noting that thousands of water workers are expected to retire in coming years. The California water industry would have a much larger pool of highly skilled and talented individuals if military veterans were offered experience credit toward state or industry certifications. AB 1588 would support our veterans by allowing the application of equivalency standards to credit military experience towards state or industry certifications in the water and wastewater treatment and distribution fields.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

These recommendations would help accomplish the County's Strategic Initiative and advance the County's vision of providing a safe, healthy, and thriving community for all our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Desmond", written in a cursive style.

JIM DESMOND
Supervisor, Fifth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE VETERANS SERVICES LEGISLATION
(AB 55, AB 408 AND AB1588) (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION
NUMBER(S):**
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Jim Desmond

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Shaina Richardson
Name
619 531-5555
Phone
Shaina.Richardson@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Name

Phone

E-mail