



---

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

---

**2018 Regular Legislative Session  
LDVA/Veterans Bills Update**

**HB 148 (Rep. Falconer) (Sent to Governor)** – provides for implementation of zero suicide initiative and a state suicide prevention plan; not directly aimed at veterans, but the bill notes LA’s veteran suicide rate is over 10% higher than the national and southern region averages.

**HB 150 (Rep. LeBas) (Signed by Governor, Act 63)** – allows the Pharmacy Board to, upon written request of any licensed pharmacist or certified technician who is the spouse of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the US, to waive the requirement of the fee for the renewal of a pharmacist license or technician certificate, in accordance with rules to be promulgated by the board.

**HB 181 (Rep. Armes) (Signed by Governor, Act 197)** – Changes the make-up of the La Military Advisory Council. Reduces the council from 19 to 13 members, and requires 8 members present and voting for a quorum for transacting business.

**HB 265 (Rep. Patricia Smith) (Signed by the Speaker)** – Provides relative to registration and voting by a person convicted of a felony; convicted felon can vote again after being out of jail for five years.

**HB 281 (Rep. Talbot) (Signed by the Speaker)** – Allows residents to pay for installing video camera in their room in a private LDH-licensed nursing home.

**HB 348 (Rep. Hodges) (Sent to Governor)** – Requires Department of Public Safety and Corrections to report the number of inmates who are veterans to LDVA

**HB 394 (Rep. Cox) (Sent to Governor)** – Establishes the Post-Conviction Veterans Mentor Program

**HB 441 (Rep. Stokes) (Sent to Governor)** – Creates the “Military Order of the Purple Heart First Responder Program” special prestige license

**HB 494 (Rep. Hazel) (Signed by Governor, Act 133)** – Recreates the LDVA

**HB 496 (Rep. Hazel) (Sent to Governor)** – Allows all drivers renewing any class of driver’s license to choose to pay \$1 (voluntarily) at the Office of Motor Vehicles which will go directly to the Military Family Assistance Fund.

**HB 620 (Rep. Carter) (Signed by Governor, Act 99)** – Requires the Office of Vital Records to share data regarding veterans; allows the state registrar, upon written request from a representative of



---

## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

---

the USDVA, to issue a certified copy of a veteran's death certificate for the purpose of determining the eligibility of veterans benefits.

**HB 754 (Rep. Foil) (Sent to Governor)** – Provides relative to certain veteran-owned small entrepreneurship; (allows some additional credit for being a veteran-owned business in the state procurement process)

**HB 854 (Rep. Horton) (Senate & House adopted Conference Committee Report)** – Clarifies that veterans must have 50% or more service connected disability to receive free parking at airports (for up to 10 days); also clarifies that the proof they need to show the airports are either a disabled military license plate OR an LDVA certificate showing that the veteran is 50% or more service connected disabled.

**HCR 27 (Rep. Pat Smith) (Signed by the Speaker)** – (No specified veterans connection, just fyi on this one) Urges and requests the creation of the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus.

**HCR 70 (Rep. Hodges) (Signed by the Speaker)** – Requests that the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees meet to solicit input and recommendations from ten different medical licensing boards as to what steps each board has taken to provide credit for prior military training and certifications in their licensing process.

**SB 17 (Sen. Peacock) (Sent to Governor)** – Provides for harmonization of federal and state law regarding creditable service for military time at LA retirement systems.

**SB 174 (Sen. Perry) (Signed by Governor, Act 2)** – Cleans up the Old Arsenal Museum statutes, so that LDVA can move forward with operating/staffing (where possible with volunteers or current staff), the Old Arsenal Museum.

**SB 175 (Sen. Perry) (Signed by Governor, Act 1)** – Approves the establishment and maintenance of a monument on the east side of the state capitol to honor the sacrifices of Louisiana Gold Star Families.

**SB 203 (Sen. Peacock) (Sent to Governor)** – Provides relative to the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

**SB 548 (Sen. Boudreaux) (Sent to Governor)** – Creates a pretrial diversion program for veterans diagnosed with PTSD.