

Senate Engrossed House Bill
state agencies; veterans status; inquiry

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE BILL 2670

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1801, 41-601 AND 41-603, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-1801, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1801. Definitions

5 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Armed forces of the United States" ~~means the army, the navy,~~
7 ~~the air force, the marine corps, the coast guard, the commissioned corps~~
8 ~~of the United States public health services, the national oceanographic~~
9 ~~and atmospheric administration, the national guard and any military~~
10 ~~reserve unit of any branch of the armed forces of the United States~~ HAS
11 THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-601.

12 2. "Continuous attendance" means enrollment at an educational
13 institution in this state as a full-time student, as such term is defined
14 by the governing body of the educational institution, for a normal
15 academic year since the beginning of the period for which continuous
16 attendance is claimed. Such person need not attend summer sessions or any
17 other intersession beyond the normal academic year in order to maintain
18 continuous attendance.

19 3. "Domicile" means a person's true, fixed and permanent home and
20 place of habitation. It is the place where he intends to remain and to
21 which he expects to return when he leaves without intending to establish a
22 new domicile elsewhere.

23 4. "Emancipated person" means a person who is neither under a legal
24 duty of service to his parent nor entitled to the support of such parent
25 under the laws of this state.

26 5. "Parent" means a person's father or mother, or if one parent has
27 custody, that parent, or if there is no surviving parent or the
28 whereabouts of the parents are unknown, then a guardian of an
29 unemancipated person if there are not circumstances indicating that such
30 guardianship was created primarily for the purpose of conferring the
31 status of an in-state student on such unemancipated person.

32 Sec. 2. Section 41-601, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
33 read:

34 41-601. Definitions

35 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

36 1. "ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES" MEANS THE ARMY, THE NAVY,
37 THE AIR FORCE, THE SPACE FORCE, THE MARINE CORPS, THE COAST GUARD, THE
38 COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, THE
39 NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, THE NATIONAL GUARD
40 AND ANY MILITARY RESERVE UNIT OF ANY BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
41 UNITED STATES.

42 ~~1.~~ 2. "Commission" means the Arizona veterans' service advisory
43 commission.

44 ~~2.~~ 3. "Department" means the department of veterans' services.

1 ~~3.~~ 4. "Director" means the director of the department of veterans'
2 services.

3 ~~4.~~ 5. "Veteran" means a citizen of the United States who was
4 enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned and who was accepted for and
5 assigned to active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

6 Sec. 3. Section 41-603, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 41-603. Powers and duties

9 A. The department may act as guardian of an incapacitated veteran,
10 the incapacitated spouse of a veteran or minor children of a veteran, or
11 as conservator of the estate of a protected veteran or of the veteran's
12 incapacitated or surviving spouse or of the minor children of a veteran.
13 The department may act in all fiduciary matters, including as power of
14 attorney, trustee, custodian or representative payee of a veteran, spouse
15 of a veteran or minor child of a veteran. The department may act as the
16 personal representative of the estate of a deceased veteran, deceased
17 spouse of a veteran or deceased child of a veteran.

18 B. The department shall:

19 1. Assist veterans and their families and dependents in presenting,
20 providing and establishing claims, privileges, rights and benefits they
21 may have under federal, state or local law.

22 2. Inform veterans and their families and dependents and military
23 and civilian authorities about federal, state and local laws enacted to
24 benefit veterans and their families and dependents and members of the
25 armed forces.

26 3. Collect information relating to services and facilities
27 available to veterans.

28 4. Cooperate with all government and private agencies receiving
29 services for or benefits to veterans and their families and dependents.

30 5. Conduct administrative reviews and, if possible, correct abuses
31 or prevent exploitation of veterans and their families or dependents and
32 recommend corrective legislation.

33 6. Adopt rules deemed necessary to administer this article.

34 7. Enter into agreements with veterans' organizations in this state
35 holding a charter granted by the Congress of the United States for the
36 beneficial interest of veterans.

37 8. Verify and provide written confirmation to the person of
38 eligibility for special license plates issued pursuant to section 28-2475
39 by determining that all of the following are true:

40 (a) The person was a member of the United States armed forces on
41 December 7, 1941.

42 (b) The person received an honorable discharge from the United
43 States armed forces.

1 (c) The person was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours
2 of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the Island of Oahu
3 or offshore, at a distance not exceeding three miles.

4 9. Evaluate, supervise, approve and disapprove programs offered by
5 educational institutions and training establishments pursuant to United
6 States Code titles 10 and 38 and state rules, so that veterans and their
7 dependents may draw the educational allowance provided by federal law
8 while pursuing approved programs.

9 10. Establish an application process for the Arizona gold star
10 military medal, shall verify the eligibility of recipients and, if funding
11 is available, may award the Arizona gold star military medal to an
12 eligible individual.

13 C. The department may:

14 1. Acquire property for and construct and operate veterans' home
15 facilities in this state.

16 2. Acquire property for and establish and operate cemeteries for
17 veterans in this state.

18 3. Establish a training center to provide training to current or
19 potential employees and the veteran community. The department may
20 establish a fee for this training.

21 4. SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION AND AS AUTHORIZED BY THE
22 BURIAL EQUITY FOR GUARDS AND RESERVES ACT (P.L. 117-103; 136 STAT. 1109),
23 PROVIDE BURIAL SERVICES IN STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE
24 ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD AND THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RESERVES IF THE
25 MEMBER'S SERVICE WAS TERMINATED UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS.

26 Sec. 4. Effective date

27 This act is effective from and after December 31, 2023.