



REEB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

California State Commanders Veterans Council July 2025 Legislative Report



Legislative Report – September 23, 2025

Prepared by Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate

2025 Legislative Cycle Wrap-Up & Grassroots Urgency for Veterans

As the 2025 legislative session closes, veterans secured some important victories. The first-ever state tax exclusion for military retirement and Survivor Benefit Plan income up to \$20,000 per year will soon put money back into the pockets of 130,000 veterans and spouses. The Master Plan for Career Education will open career pathways by valuing military training for civilian credit, and Prop 1 housing funds are finally moving to veterans facing homelessness and behavioral health challenges.

These are meaningful steps forward, but not the whole story. The debate around SB 694 highlighted a difficult reality: only 134 veterans sent letters while opponents spent \$500,000 lobbying. Lawmakers told us directly, “I’m only hearing from the opposition.” That message should not be repeated in the future.

Why Grassroots Advocacy Matters

Grassroots advocacy is not just about professional lobbyists in Sacramento. It’s every veteran, spouse, and our allies who take a few minutes to make a phone call, send an email, meet with legislators in their districts, or share information on social media. That is what balances the conversation.

- **Without input from veterans, our issues lose priority.**
- **With participation, even a modest number of voices can outweigh large amounts of money.**
- **Grassroots action helps ensure that tax relief, protections from predatory actors, and cemetery projects move forward.**

If veterans stay silent, others will decide the outcome. If veterans speak up, we strengthen our place at the table.

I will continue to provide the reports, updates, and tools on social media so you can stay engaged. But it’s up to you to take that next step. Please share this information with your friends, family, and coworkers so our collective voice is heard. (To get involved, email sethr@water-warrior.com or use the QR code at the end of this report.)

Key Wins and Bills Awaiting the Governor’s Action

- **AB 53 (Ramos) / SB 1 (Seyarto):** Military retirement/SBP tax relief—\$20,000 exclusion enacted, with expansion targeted for 2026. [Enacted in the budget bill SB 132.](#)
 - **SB 56 (Seyarto):** Removes VA disability compensation from income calculations for property tax exemption—awaiting concurrence.
 - **SB 694 (Archuleta/Schiavo):** Protects veterans from unaccredited actors charging illegal fees—still alive but under challenge.
 - **AB 571 (Quirk-Silva):** CEQA exemption to fast-track Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.
 - **SB 54 (Umbert):** Court fee waivers ensuring VA disability compensation isn't counted as income—on Governor's desk.
 - **AB 88 (Ta)/SB 67 (Seyarto):** Preserves Cal Grant eligibility for military dependents stationed out of state.
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Important Dates

- **Sept 12** – Final day for the Senate and Assembly to pass bills.
- ***Oct 12*** – Final day for the Governor to sign or veto.
- **Jan 1, 2026** – Most 2025 statutes take effect.
- **Jan 5, 2026** – Legislature reconvenes for year two.

Two-year bills automatically carry over to 2026.

Near-Term Action Plan

- **District Action Teams:** By October, form local veteran teams in every Senate and Assembly district. Meet with legislators during signings, veto discussions, and hearings.
 - **Sustained Engagement:** Use coordinated campaigns and social media outreach, remind supporters you don't have to be a veteran to stand with veterans.
 - **Legislative Hub:** A centralized [Webpage](#) will track every bill, deadline, and action item so no one is left out.
 - **Community Input:** Share legislative priorities through our [intake form](#). We will work to carry those ideas directly to the Capitol.
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Looking Ahead to 2026: Unity, Action, Persistence

The next year will bring new opportunities, but also new challenges. Opponents remain well-funded and organized. The most effective response is consistent engagement from California's veterans and supporters.

Every call, email, and meeting counts. Personal stories are often what move legislators. By working together, we can continue to secure real progress for California's veterans.

Your participation makes a difference.

Committee Leadership & Contacts

[Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee \(2025\)](#)

- Senator Bob Archuleta, Chair
- Senator Shannon Grove, Vice Chair
- Senator Jerry McNerney
- Senator Caroline Menjivar
- Senator Thomas J. Umberg

Committee Office: 1020 N Street, Room 251, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 651-1503

Chief Consultant: Bill Herms

Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (2025)

- Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, Chair (District 40)
- Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Vice Chair (District 36)
- Assemblymember Anamarie Ávila Farías (District 15)
- Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (District 39)
- Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez (District 53)
- Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (District 68)
- Assemblymember Laurie Davies (District 74)

Committee Office: 1020 N Street, Room 389, Sacramento, CA 95814

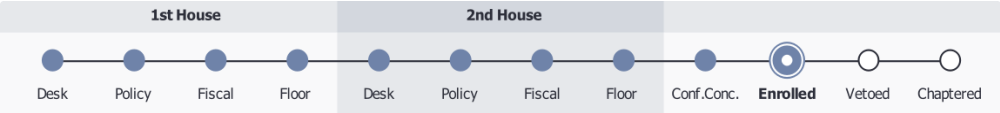
Phone: (916) 319-3550

Chief Consultant: Patty Patten

AB 81 **Ta, R** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Veterans: mental health.

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Tracking form

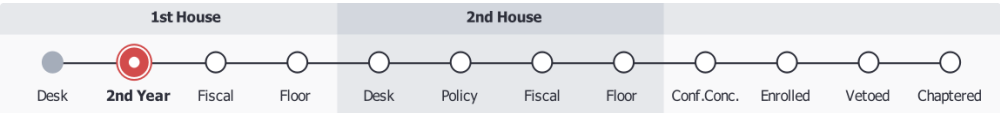
Bill information

Status:	09/11/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.		
Location:	09/11/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/11/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	12/19/2024		

AB 83 **Pacheco, D** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

The California Elder Financial Abuse Prevention Act.

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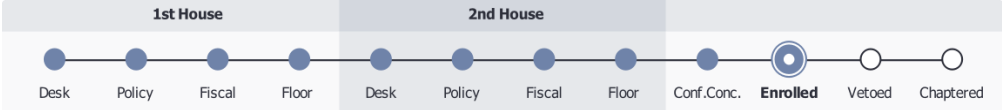
Bill information

Status:	05/01/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was B. & F. on 3/24/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	05/01/2025 - Assembly 2 YEAR	Current Text:	05/01/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	12/20/2024	Last Amend:	05/01/2025

[AB 88](#) [Ta, R](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Student financial aid: Cal Grants: Middle Class Scholarship Program: eligibility: dependents of members of the armed services stationed outside of California.

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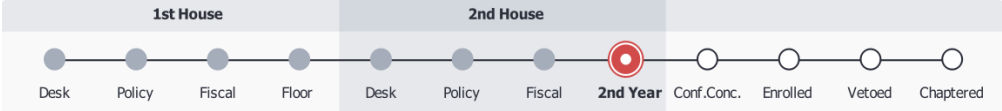
Bill information

Status:	09/11/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.		
Location:	09/11/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/11/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	01/06/2025		

[AB 264](#) [Carrillo, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Veterans: benefits.

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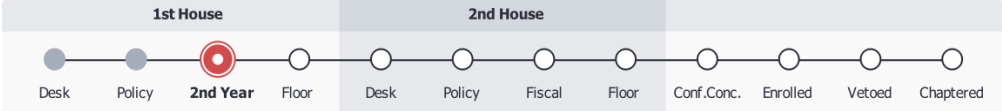
Bill information

Status:	09/11/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/3/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	09/11/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR	Current Text:	01/16/2025 - Introduced
Introduced:	01/16/2025		

[AB 556](#) [Patterson, R](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Public postsecondary education: waiver of campus-based fees: veterans.

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Bill information

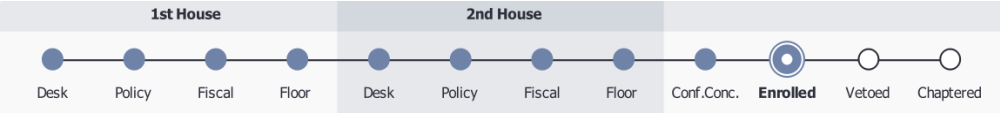
Status:	05/23/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/23/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
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Location:	05/23/2025 - Assembly 2 YEAR	Current	02/12/2025 - Introduced
Introduced:	02/12/2025	Text:	

AB 571 **Quirk-Silva, D** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.

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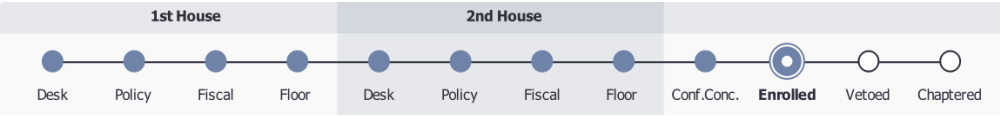
Bill information

Status:	09/09/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.	Current	09/09/2025 - Enrollment
Location:	09/09/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Text:	
Introduced:	02/12/2025	Last	06/19/2025
		Amend:	

AB 587 **Davies, R** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Student Aid Commission: membership.

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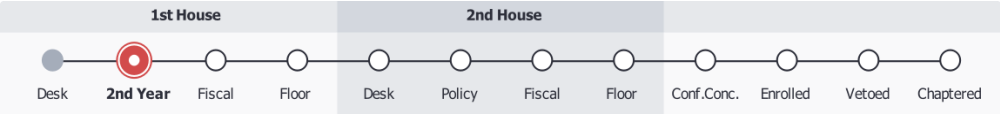
Bill information

Status:	09/12/2025 - Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	Current	09/16/2025 - Enrolled
Location:	09/12/2025 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	Text:	
Introduced:	02/12/2025	Last	09/03/2025
		Amend:	

AB 826 **Gonzalez, Jeff, R** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Veterans' benefits: protections.

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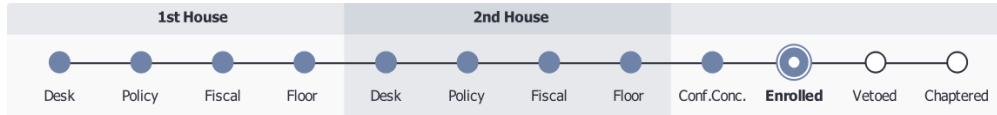
Bill information

Status:	05/01/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was JUD. on 4/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)	Current	04/02/2025 - Amended
Location:	05/01/2025 - Assembly 2 YEAR	Text:	
Introduced:	02/19/2025	Last	04/02/2025

AB 1412 **Gonzalez, Jeff, R** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Special education: pupil transfers: residency requirements: records.

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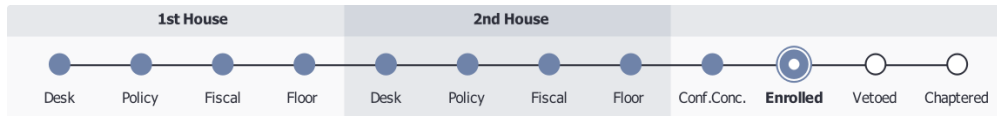
Bill information

Status:	09/02/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.		
Location:	09/02/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/02/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	02/21/2025	Last Amend:	04/21/2025

AB 1508 **Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Governor's Military Council.

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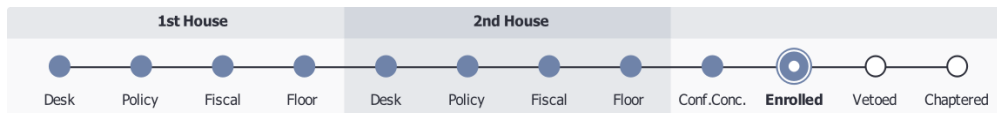
Bill information

Status:	09/15/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4:30 p.m.		
Location:	09/15/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/15/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	03/03/2025		

AB 1509 **Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Veterans: educational assistance.

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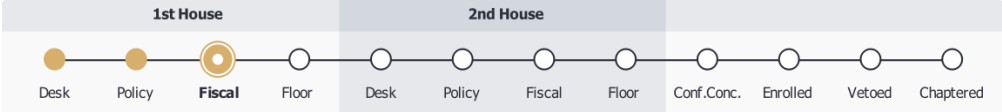
Bill information

Status:	09/02/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.		
Location:	09/02/2025 - Assembly ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/02/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	03/03/2025		

SB 1 **Seyarto, R** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

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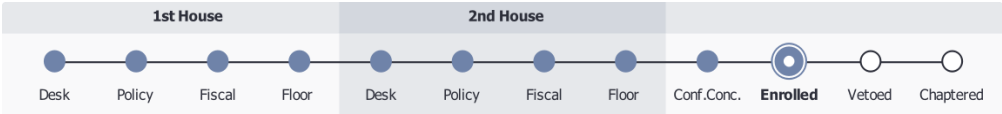
Bill information

Status:	05/23/2025 - May 23 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.		
Location:	05/12/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE	Current Text:	02/20/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	12/02/2024	Last Amend:	02/20/2025

[SB 54](#) [Umberg, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Court fee waivers: veterans.

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Bill information

Status:	09/16/2025 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.		
Location:	09/16/2025 - Senate ENROLLED	Current Text:	09/16/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	01/07/2025		

[SB 55](#) [Umberg, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members.

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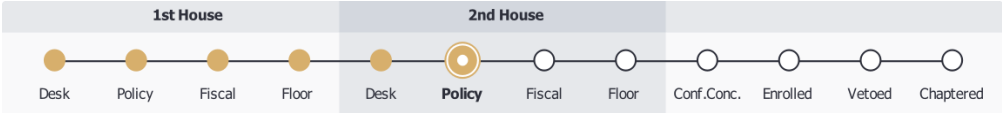
Bill information

Status:	08/28/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	08/28/2025 - Assembly 2 YEAR	Current Text:	03/26/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	01/07/2025	Last Amend:	03/26/2025

[SB 56](#) [Seyarto, R](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

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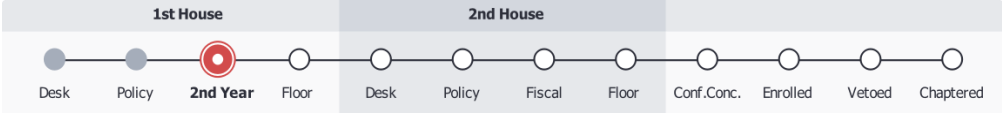
Bill information

Status:	07/15/2025 - July 14 hearing: Placed on REV. & TAX. suspense file. Set, first hearing. Held in committee and under submission.		
Location:	07/15/2025 - Assembly REV. & TAX SUSPENSE FILE	Current Text:	06/19/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	01/07/2025	Last Amend:	06/19/2025

SB 60 Seyarto, R [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Public postsecondary education: waiver of tuition and fees: California Military Department GI Bill Award Program: extended education courses.

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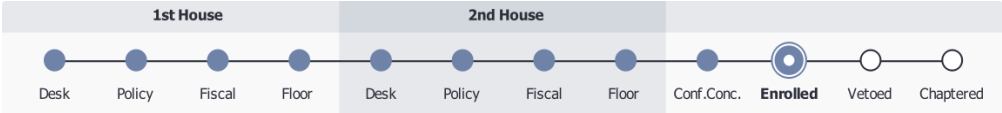
Bill information

Status:	05/23/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/12/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	05/23/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR	Current Text:	01/08/2025 - Introduced
Introduced:	01/08/2025		

SB 67 Seyarto, R [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Student financial aid: Cal Grants: Middle Class Scholarship Program: eligibility: dependents of members of the armed services stationed outside of California.

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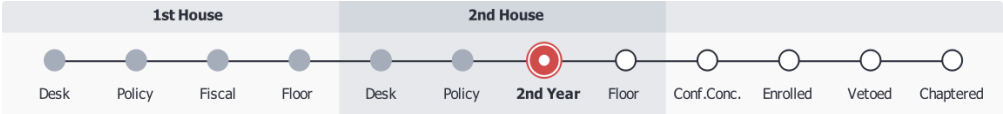
Bill information

Status:	09/13/2025 - Joint Rule 61(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. In Senate. Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending. Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 34. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.		
Location:	09/13/2025 - Senate ENROLLMENT	Current Text:	09/13/2025 - Enrollment
Introduced:	01/13/2025	Last Amend:	09/09/2025

SB 70 Seyarto, R [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Public contracts: Small Business Procurement and Contract Act.

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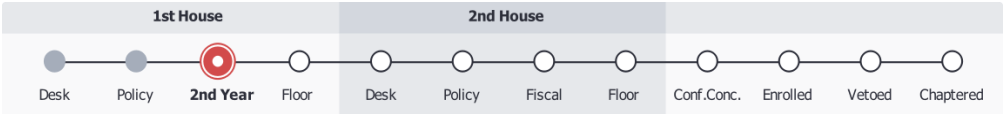
Bill information

Status:	08/28/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	08/28/2025 - Assembly 2 YEAR	Current Text:	03/03/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	01/14/2025	Last Amend:	03/03/2025

[SB 99](#) [Blakespear, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Family childcare homes: United States Armed Forces.

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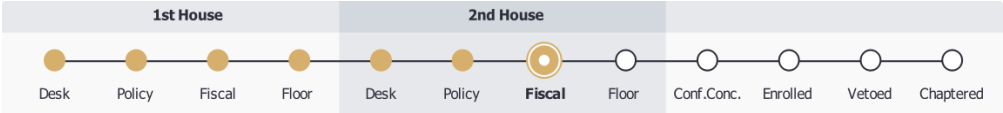
Bill information

Status:	05/23/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/12/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)		
Location:	05/23/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR	Current Text:	04/23/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	01/23/2025	Last Amend:	04/23/2025

[SB 587](#) [Grayson, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Personal income taxes: credit: manufacturing: sales and use taxes.

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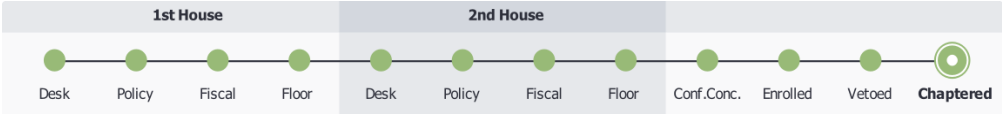
Bill information

Status:	08/29/2025 - August 29 hearing postponed by committee.		
Location:	08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE	Current Text:	05/23/2025 - Amended
Introduced:	02/20/2025	Last Amend:	05/23/2025

[SCR 56](#) [Archuleta, D](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

National Military Appreciation Month.

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Bill information

Status:	07/03/2025 - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 116, Statutes of 2025		
Location:	07/03/2025 - Senate CHAPTERED	Current Text:	07/03/2025 - Chaptered
Introduced:	04/02/2025		

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2025

- CONTACT:** Lisa Murphy, Lisa.Murphy@sen.ca.gov (for Pro Tem McGuire)
- Nick Miller, Nick.Miller@asm.ca.gov (for Speaker Rivas)
- Christina Montoya, Christina.Montoya@sen.ca.gov (For Limón)
- Andrew Aldama, Andrew.Aldama@sen.ca.gov (For Archuleta)
- Rachel Tochterman, Rachel.Tochterman@sen.ca.gov (For Umberg)
- Furkan Yalcin, Furkan.Yalcin@asm.ca.gov (For Schiavo)

Joint Statement on Senate Bill 694

Sacramento – Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast), Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas), Senate Pro Tem Elect Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara), Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Senator Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana) and Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (D- Chatsworth) released the following statement on Senate Bill 694:

"We have reached an agreement on SB 694 and the bill will immediately move to the Senate Floor in January. Veterans have earned and deserve our support. They have sacrificed so much for this country, and we're coming together to put an end to the deceptive practices that target them. This legislation deserves a vote and this bill will get its day in the legislature as soon as we return in the new year."

The legislative session reconvenes on January 5, 2026.

###

Mike McGuire is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. He represents the North Coast of California, which stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, including Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties. Website of Senate Leader

McGuire: <https://sdo2.senate.ca.gov/>

A Critical Call to Action for Veterans and Supporters

Please read this carefully: While we've secured an agreement to move SB 694 to the Senate Floor for a vote in January, **this does not mean we have the votes secured**. Despite our hard-fought progress, **the fight is far from over**. To push SB 694 across the finish line in the Senate and onto the Governor's desk, we need **every veteran's voice in California** to rise up. Your calls, letters, emails, and advocacy are critical to making this bill law. Join us now, let's ensure our veterans get the protections they deserve!

STAY CONNECTED

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@Vet11b-DownRange>

Notion: <http://leg4vetsca.notion.site/>

X/Twitter: <https://x.com/SRGR1985>

Veterans Discord: <https://discord.gg/HY45dyfRyn>

Email: sethr@water-warrior.com

