



Legislative Summary Sheet: Bills Related to Military Families Recently Introduced into State Legislatures

This legislative summary sheet was developed to give an overview of the policy and legislation related to military families. Statutes and bills can be reviewed individually, but often it is useful to view them in “themes” or “clusters” to:

- Highlight legislative activity in one particular state
- Make it easier to compare legislation between states
- Illustrate varying legislation language and content



Bills Facilitating the Education of Military Children

Each of the bills below creates the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents

Alabama

- AL HB 343 (Introduced 2/6/2008)

Arizona

- AZ HB 2720 (Introduced 2/1/2008)
- AZ SB 1334 (Introduced 1/31/2008)

California

- CA AB 1809 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Colorado

- CO HB 1317 (Introduced 2/1/2008)

Connecticut

- CT HB 5545 (Introduced 2/20/2008)

Delaware

- DE HB 1035 (Introduced 1/9/2008)

Florida

- FL HB 1203 (Introduced 3/4/2008)
- FL SB 2546 (Introduced 2/29/2008)

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Georgia

- GA SB 345 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Hawaii

- HI HB 3026 (Introduced 1/22/2008)
- HI HB 3124 (Introduced 1/22/2008)
- HI SB 2877 (Introduced 1/23/2008)
- HI SB 3046 (Introduced 1/22/2008)

Illinois

- IL HB 5368 (Introduced 2/14/2008)

Kansas

- KS HB 2714 (Introduced 1/30/2008)

Kentucky

- KY HB 244 (Introduced 1/10/2008)
- KY SB 68 (Introduced 1/9/2008)

Maryland

- MD HB 784 (Introduced 2/4/2008)
- MD SB 457 (Introduced 1/31/2008)

Mississippi

- MS SB 2704 (Introduced 2/4/2008)

Missouri

- MO HB 1678 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

New Hampshire

- NH HB 1261 (Introduced 12/3/2007)

Oklahoma

- OK HB 2507 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

South Dakota

- SD SB 125 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Virginia

- VA HB 395 (Introduced 1/9/2008)

Washington

- WA HB 2918 (Introduced 1/17/2008)
- WA SB 6426 (Introduced 1/16/2008)



Bills Providing Leave or Employment Protections to Military Families

For members of the military:

Arizona

- AZ HB 2073 (Introduced 1/8/2007)

Provides employment protections for members of the National Guard

Idaho

- ID HB 339 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Provides that all members of the National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves are entitled to 120 hours of leave without loss of pay, time, or efficiency rating

Iowa

- IA HB 2001 (Introduced 1/14/2008)
- IA HB 2065 (Introduced 1/23/2008)

Ensures that employees who return to military service are reinstated in the same position, in regards to seniority, status, and pay

Kentucky

- KY HB 314 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Ensures that employees who return to military service are reinstated in the same position, in regards to seniority, status, and pay

New Jersey

- NJ AB 528 (Introduced 1/8/2008)

Provides employment protections for employees on military leave

Pennsylvania

- PA HB 1324 (Introduced 5/15/2007)

Provides a leave of absence from education for certain members of the National Guard and restoration of educational status without loss of academic credits, scholarships, or grants upon release from military duty

Washington

- WA HB 1127 (Introduced 1/11/2007)

Extends military leave for public employees from 15 to 30 days

For family members:

Hawaii

- HI HB 620 (Introduced 1/19/2007)
- HI SB 807 (Introduced 1/19/2007)

Allows an employee to use family leave to address family care, legal, and financial issues directly related to or resulting from the impending military deployment of the employee's child, spouse, reciprocal beneficiary, or parent



Maine

- ME HB 212 (Introduced 6/11/2007)

Provides leave under The Family Medical Leave Act MLA to an employee whose spouse is a member of the Armed Forces and who has been killed or injured

- ME HB 291 (Introduced 3/1/2007)

Requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide 15 days of unpaid leave to employees whose family member is on military leave

Michigan

- MI SB 579 (Introduced 6/12/2007)

Provides employees leave if their immediate family member is killed in active military duty

Nebraska

- NE LB 497 (Introduced 1/17/2007)

Adopts the Family Military Leave Act to provide up to 30 days of unpaid leave to an employee who is the spouse or parent of a person called to military service lasting 179 days or longer

New York

- NY AB 6024 (Introduced 2/28/2007)

- NY SB 1567 (Introduced 1/22/2007)

Requires employers with 20 or more employees to provide leave for military spouses

Pennsylvania

- PA SB 1199 (Introduced 12/7/2007)

Extends educational leave of absence to include the spouse of members of the National Guard and other reserve components of the armed forces

Rhode Island

- RI HB 7774 (Introduced 1/26/2008)

- RI SB 2760 (Introduced 1/26/2008)

Permits the spouse or parent of a service person to obtain leave from work while the service person is on military duty

Washington

- WA SB 6447 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

- WA SB 6815 (Introduced 1/24/2008)

Allows the spouse of a member of the military up to 15 days of unpaid leave when their spouse is on leave from deployment during a period of military conflict

Wisconsin

- WI AB 324 (Introduced 5/14/2007)

- WI SB 173 (Introduced 5/3/2007)

Requires employers with at least 15 individuals to provide unpaid family military leave to employees with a spouse or child in active military service



Bills Providing Tax Exemptions and Unemployment Insurance Benefits to Military Families

California

- CA AB 170 (Introduced 1/23/2007)

Excludes the basic housing allowance provided to active members of the military in determining eligibility for state preschool services

Kentucky

- KY HB 43 (Introduced 1/8/2008)
- KY HB 163 (Introduced 1/8/2008)
- KY HB 43 (Introduced 1/8/2008)

Exempts military pay from taxation

- KY HB 116 (Introduced 1/8/2008)

Deletes provision that makes a military spouse's eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits dependent on a substantially similar statute from another state

Maryland

- MD HB 749 (Introduced 2/4/2008)

Provides unemployment benefits to spouses of the military under specified circumstances

Ohio

- OH SB 284 (Introduced 1/30/2008)

Exempts grants provided to individuals from the Military Injury Relief Fund from taxation



Bills Establishing Military Relief Programs and Mechanisms to Fund Programs

California

- CA AB 3016 (Introduced 2/22/2008)

Declares that contributions to the California Military Relief Fund be used to provide financial aid grants to reserve members who are state residents

- CA AB 1095 (Introduced 2/23/2007)

Concerns making permanent the unemployed benefits of military spouses

Colorado

- CO HB 1035 (Introduced 1/9/2008)

Concerns making permanent the unemployed benefits of military spouses



Connecticut

- CT HB 5438 (Introduced 2/15/2008)

Concerns making permanent the unemployed benefits of military spouses

Hawaii

- HI SB 2812 (Introduced 1/22/2008)
- HI HB 2832 (Introduced 1/21/2008)

Creates the Hawaii Military Family Trust Program

- HI HB 616 (Introduced 1/19/2007)
- HI SB 809 (Introduced 1/19/2007)

Establishes the Hawaii Military Family Relief Special Fund and an income tax check off to fund it

Maine

- ME HB 1405 (Introduced 1/2/2008)

Creates a state Military Relief Trust Fund

Michigan

- MI HB 4547 (Introduced 3/29/2007)
- MI HB 4557 (Introduced 3/29/2007)
- MI SB 515 (Introduced 5/17/2007)

Creates a state Military Relief Trust Fund

New Jersey

- NJ SB 1004 (Introduced 1/28/2008)
- NJ SB 6004 (Introduced 2/27/2007)

Creates a state Military Relief Trust Fund

New York

- NY AB 5428 (Introduced 2/15/2007)
- NY AB 6004 (Introduced 2/27/2007)

Creates a state Military Relief Trust Fund

West Virginia

- WV HB 4087 (Introduced 1/18/2008)

Creates a state Military Relief Trust Fund

Wisconsin

- WI AB 362 (Introduced 5/29/2007)
- WI SB 192 (Introduced 5/25/2007)

Provides for a voluntary contribution designation for the Military Family Relief Fund on state individual income tax return forms



Bills Providing Additional Supports and Protections to Military Families

Colorado

- CO HB 1162 (Introduced 1/16/2008)

Concerns the creation of a military spouse interim authorization for employment in a public school

Maine

- ME HB 136 (Introduced 1/16/2007)

Allows group life insurance to be reinstated for public employees returning from unpaid military leave without employees' having to provide evidence of insurability

Massachusetts

- MA HB 4526 (Introduced 2/7/2008)

- MA HB 4312 (Introduced 10/22/2007)

Provides for an investigation by a special commission to study the hidden wounds of war on Massachusetts service members

- MA HB 4079 (Introduced 6/7/2007)

Authorizes the City of Cambridge to pay full salaries and benefits to employees serving in combat operations

- MA SB 2333 (Introduced 9/4/2007)

Allows Town of Wareham to pay an employee of the town on military leave his base salary, reduced by the amount received as base pay for military service

Michigan

- MI SB 748 (Introduced 9/6/2007)

Provides a procedure to safeguard termination of life insurance policies of active duty military personnel

- MI SB 749 (Introduced 9/6/2007)

Prohibits foreclosure of mortgages for certain active military personnel

- MI HB 4237 (Introduced 2/7/2007)

Provides compensation to surviving spouses and dependents in case of death arising from active duty

Minnesota

- MN HB 279 (Introduced 1/22/2007)

- MN HB 802 (Introduced 2/12/2007)

- MN SB 375 (Introduced 1/29/2007)

- MN SB 1738 (Introduced 3/12/2007)

Extends eligibility for educational benefits for certain surviving military spouses and children

Mississippi

- MS SB 2170 (Introduced 1/17/2008)

- MS HB 53 (Introduced 1/21/2008)

Creates a tuition waiver program for spouses of active members of the Mississippi National Guard



Nebraska

- NB LB 731 (Introduced 1/9/2008)

Provides for the issuance of a teaching permit to spouses of an active duty member of the armed forces, provided the spouse holds a valid teaching permit from another state

New York

- NY AB 6858 (Introduced 3/22/2007)

Establishes a Financial Literacy for Military Families Program

- NY AB 2841 (Introduced 1/19/2007)

Provides for modification of child support payments in certain instances where the person called to active duty will experience a reduction in income due to loss of wages from a civilian job

Pennsylvania

- PA HB 241 (Introduced 2/5/2007)

Establishes the Military Child-Care Assistance Program

South Carolina

- SC SB 808 (Introduced 5/31/2007)

Enacts the Military Parent Equal Protection Act

Washington

- WA HB 1479 (Introduced 1/22/2007)

Exempts transfer students from military families from certain prerequisites for earning a certificate of academic achievement

- WA SB 5280 (Introduced 1/15/2007)

Provides postsecondary grants for National Guard and military families

The Network has compiled a Work-Family Bills and Statutes Database to help provide an overview of the bills that have been proposed and the laws that have been passed in various states that are relevant to work-family issues. This Database includes bills and statutes related to Military Families that have been proposed in previous and current legislative sessions. You can connect to this database at <http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/bills.php?area=policy>