

Legislative Report
19 Feb 2022

Members of NM MOAA in conjunction with the Legislative Team of the Military/Veterans Leadership Council (MVLC) – led by MSG Martin Gallegos (NMARNG Ret) achieved a major success this session. At the last minute HB 163 – Tax Changes – was amended to include a graduated Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption: \$10K Tax Year 2022, \$20K Tax Year 2023, \$30K Tax Year 2024 -2026. This bill also eliminates Income Tax on Social Security for tax payers with adjusted gross income of: married filing single up to \$75K, joint up to \$150K, single up to \$100K.

HB 163 Tax Changes (included Tax Exemption for Military Retirement \$30K)
(Final Vote: Senate 39-0 House 59-9)

MOAA & MVLC will immediately work on correcting some omissions in HB 163.

1. Surviving Spouses are not included
2. The bill uses the following language: "*armed forces retiree*" means a former member of the armed forces of the United States. We have to clarify if this definition includes Coast Guard, USPHS & NOAA who are also considered part of the military.

Senate Memorial SM 7 Military Spouse License Reciprocity (Passed by Senate)

The remainder of our legislative agenda did not fare well:

HB 168 Disabled Veterans Transportation (died in committee)

HJR 6 Change to Veterans Property Tax (died in committee).

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The following bills related to Military Retiree Tax Exemption were tabled in the respective Finance Committee:

HB 76 Military Retirement Income Tax Exemption

SB 85 Tax Exemption Military Retirement Pay

SB 128 Uniformed Services Retiree Income Tax Deduction

Thanks to all of you who emailed, called and testified on these bills.

LTC Walter Paul (USA Ret)

MOAA Legislative Chair

MVLC Vice Chair