

SS SCS SB 718-MILITARY AFFAIRS  
(Vetoed by Governor)

This bill has numerous provisions relating to military affairs.

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH (Section 9.297, RSMo)

The bill designates November as "Military Family Month" in Missouri to recognize the daily sacrifices of military families.

BUDDY CHECK 22 DAY (Section 9.300)

This bill designates the 22nd day of each month as "Buddy Check 22 Day" to encourage citizens check in on veterans and to raise awareness of the problem of suicide facing military personnel.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MILITARY PROGRAM (Section 27.115)

This bill requires the Attorney General to design, implement, and oversee a program to assist members of the military and their families in finding and retaining legal counsel. The program will be marketed to attorneys in addition to military families and will publicize pro bono legal services available to military families. The Attorney General will collaborate with the Missouri Bar in the administration of the program.

SURVIVING SPOUSES IN THE MERIT SYSTEM (Section 36.020)

This bill modifies the definition of "surviving spouse" in provisions of law relating to the merit system.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY FORCES (Sections 41.035 and 650.005)

This bill creates the Department of Military Forces which will be headed by the Adjutant General and will administer the militia and programs of the state relating to military forces. The office of Adjutant General and the militia are transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Military Forces.

These provisions are contingent upon the passage of a Constitutional amendment that provides for the establishment of the Department of Military Forces.

TEACHER LICENSING FOR SPOUSES OF MILITARY MEMBERS (Section 168.021)

This bill provides that a provisional certificate issued to any qualified military spouse who is hired to teach in a Missouri public school is valid for three years. Additionally, within 30 days after receiving an application and of completion of the

required background check, the State Board of Education must issue a full certificate of license to a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who meets certain residence requirements if all necessary fees are paid and all other licensing requirements are met.

#### STATE OMBUDSMAN AND VETERANS' HOMES (Section 192.2305)

This bill authorizes the Office of State Ombudsman for Long-Term Care Facility Residents to receive, respond to, and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of Missouri veterans' homes relating to the action, inaction, or decisions of providers or agencies affecting resident health, safety, welfare, or rights. The State Ombudsman or representatives of the office, in addition to all current authority granted by state statute, will have the authority to enter any veterans' home and have access to residents in a reasonable time and manner and have access to resident records with the permission of the resident or the resident's guardian. Additionally, the office will analyze and monitor the development and implementation of federal, state, and local law and regulations regarding Missouri veterans' homes.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES (Section 208.151)

This bill provides that Missouri members of the Armed Forces and their immediate family will have their eligibility for MO HealthNet developmental disability services temporarily suspended for any period of time during which such person temporarily resides outside of Missouri for reasons relating to military service. Upon returning to the state, the eligibility will be immediately restored. If the military member or an immediate family member is not a legal resident of this state, but would otherwise be eligible for developmental disability services, the individual will be eligible for such services during the time in which the individual is temporarily present in Missouri for reasons relating to military service.

#### CHILD PROTECTION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES (Sections 210.109 and 210.150)

This bill requires the Children's Division within the Missouri Department of Social Services to attempt to ascertain whether the suspected perpetrator or any person responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child is a member of the Armed Forces after receiving a report on alleged abuse or neglect of a child.

This bill allows appropriate staff of the United States Department of Defense to receive access to investigation records contained in

the central registry of the Children's Division and records maintained by the Children's Division following a report of child abuse and neglect in cases where the suspected perpetrator or any person responsible for the care, custody, and control of the subject child is a member of the Armed Forces.

Additionally, this bill requires the division to report findings in cases where the person responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child is a member of the Armed Forces to the most relevant family advocacy program or other relevant person authorized by the United States Department of Defense to receive reports.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE (Section 379.122)

This bill requires the Adjutant General to ensure that members of the state military forces receive notice of certain protections relating to motor vehicle insurance, and encourages the secretaries of the branches of the United States Armed Forces to likewise notify members under their jurisdictions.

The bill specifically notes that the term "adverse underwriting decision" will include a decision to charge an increased premium.

#### MISSOURI WORKS PROGRAM (Sections 620.2005 and 620.2010)

This bill modifies the Missouri Works program to provide that, for qualified military projects, the benefit will be based on part-time and full-time jobs created by the project.