

SS SB 540 -- MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

SPONSOR: Eigel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions relating to members of the armed forces.

ARMED FORCES MEDALLION PROGRAM (Section 42.312)

The bill establishes a new medallion program, "Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and Operation Allies Refuge Program". Any veteran who served on active duty during certain dates, is a legal resident of this state or was a legal resident at the time of discharge from military service, or was a Missouri National Guard member regardless of residency, is eligible for a medal of appreciation for service.

This section is the same as HB 836 (2023) and SB 611 (2023).

ARMED FORCES INCOME TAX DEDUCTION (Sections 143.174 and 143.175)
Current law authorizes an income tax deduction for active and reserve members of the Armed Forces for a percentage of the taxpayer's income received as salary or compensation as a member of the Armed Forces. This bill provides that the term "salary or compensation" includes any signing bonus.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these are simple things we can do to help our veterans and recognize the sacrifices they make for our state and country. This can also help recruiting and retention for the military.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Eigel; Missouri National Guard Association; and Mo Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the National Guard is in partnership with the Missouri Veterans Commission and currently recognizes veterans dating back to World War II with similar certificates, medallions, and metals.

Testifying in person on the bill was Ryan L. Borgmeyer, Missouri National Guard.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.