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The 2023 Colorado General Assembly considered a range of military and veterans bills related to active service, veteran programs, and property taxes.

Active Service

House Bill 23-1045 clarified that members of the Colorado National Guard and United States reserve forces are entitled to the equivalent of three weeks of leave from their employers when called to service or for training.

Selective Service

House Bill 23-1261 eliminated the requirement for males between the ages of 17 and 26 to register for selective service in order to enroll in a state-supported institution of higher education.

Veterans Programs

This session, the General Assembly allocated continued funding and enhanced the flexibility of several veterans programs. *Senate Bill 23-154* continued funding for the veterans one-stop center in Grand Junction, which serves as a location where veterans,

service members, and their family members residing in the western portion of the state can access assistance and resources.

Senate Bill 23-302 ensured the continuation of funding for the Veterans' Service-to-Career program, while also offering increased flexibility by implementing funding easements and removing grant restrictions.

In addition, the General Assembly created the Veterans Mental Health Services Program with *House Bill 23-1088*. The program reimburses mental health care providers for up to 26 sessions with veterans who have exhausted their federal Veterans Administration mental health benefits.

Property Taxes

The legislature reviewed several bills related to the veterans' homestead exemption. The homestead exemption is a property tax exemption for seniors and certain veterans. *Senate Bill 23-107* would have increased the homestead exemption tax deduction received. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. Instead, the General Assembly passed *House Bill 23-1052* and *House Concurrent Resolution 23-1002*. Together, these two pieces of legislation would expand the homestead exemption to more veterans with disabilities, conditional on voter approval of a ballot measure.

