

Summary of Legislation

2024



Military and Veterans

During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several bills concerning the military and veterans, including veterans' programs, education, occupational licensing, land use, and a new holiday.

Veterans' Programs

Two bills continued existing veteran programs. [Senate Bill 24-109](#) continues the Veterans' Service-to-Career Program until 2027. The program authorizes nonprofit agencies to partner with work force centers to provide veterans and other eligible participants with skills training, internships, work placements, mentorship opportunities, professional counseling, and support services.

[House Bill 24-1273](#) continues the Veterans Assistance Grant Program until 2031. This program distributes grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies that provide certain services to veterans. Additionally, under the bill the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs must develop rules for the program that improve access to services for underserved veterans.

[Senate Bill 24-004](#) updates and clarifies the administrative structure and requirements for veterans service offices. These offices help veterans and their dependents obtain benefits to which they are entitled, such as pensions, disability compensation, medical care, and education assistance. The bill also

changes how counties request payments from the state for veterans' services.

Education

[House Bill 24-1076](#) creates the Purple Star School Program in the Colorado Department of Education. The program will award the purple star designation to public schools that provide services and support to military-connected students and their families. Purple star schools must, among other requirements:

- designate a staff member as a military liaison;
- create and maintain a resources webpage for military-connected students and their families;
- establish and maintain a student-led transition program for military-connected students who are relocating to the school; and
- offer professional development for educators and staff on issues related to military-connected students

[House Bill 24-1226](#) would have expanded the Colorado National Guard Tuition Assistance Program to include the dependents of certain National Guard members. The bill was deemed postponed indefinitely.

Occupational Licensing

Starting September 1, 2024, [House Bill 24-1097](#) allows dependents and military

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spouses of individuals who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as Gold Star spouses, to participate in the Occupational Credential Portability Program in the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The program allows individuals with a current, active occupational credential issued by another state, U.S. territory, or foreign country to apply for a credential in Colorado through a streamlined process.

Land Use

[Senate Bill 24-074](#) establishes a process for concurrent legislative jurisdiction. This allows state and local agencies to perform duties within their jurisdiction, such as law enforcement investigations, in military installations with specific guidelines from the federal government.

Holiday

[House Bill 24-1236](#) designates Women Veterans Appreciation Day as an observed, but not a legal, state holiday on June 12 of each year. The bill states that appropriate observance may be held in tribute to the service and sacrifice of women veterans.

