



**STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 31**

DAVID PEARCE



2010 Military and Veterans' Legislation

HB 1524: Handled by Sen. Pearce

- Allows overseas service members to request and receive voter registration applications and absentee ballots electronically.
- Requires state and local governments to give a measured preference to service-disabled veteran businesses when contracting a job or service.
- Establishes the Missouri Youth Challenge Academy for at-risk high school age youth (similar to HB 2262).
- Allows an exemption for the A+ Schools Program's three-year attendance requirement for retired military dependents who move to Missouri within one year of retirement (similar to HB 2147).
- Specifies that Missouri recognizes the designations of Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) as valid descriptions of casualty status and category classification for military personnel.
- Clarifies "next of kin" designations as it relates to final disposition of remains and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- Authorizes the governor to present certain service citations, ribbons and medals to members of the Missouri National Guard.
- Allows for a special license plate for Legion of Merit Medal recipients.
- Requires the State Treasurer, upon receiving a military medal, to hold and maintain it until the original owner or his or her heirs or beneficiaries can be found.

**SB 940: Sponsored by Sen. Pearce
(Relaxes Bingo Regulations)**

- Increases the advertising allowance for bingo from 2 percent to 10 percent of the total amount expended from bingo receipts.
- Allows a bingo licensee to conduct up to 15 bingo games annually, rather than four, as well as hold games two days per week, rather than one day per week.
- Provides that no bingo games may be operated between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., an expansion of the current midnight to 10 a.m. limitation.
- Allows games to be conducted by approved electronic bingo card monitoring devices.

**SB 733: Sponsored by Sen. Pearce
(Bright Flight Scholarships)**

- Protects Bright Flight scholarships for military students by stating that if a recipient cannot attend an approved institution because of military service with the United States Armed Forces, the student will still receive the scholarship if he or she returns to full-time status within six months after completing military service.

**HB 2147: Handled by Sen. Pearce
(A+ Schools Program)**

- Exempts from the A+ Schools Program's three-year attendance requirement a student who is a dependent of a retired military member who relocates to Missouri within one year of retirement from active duty. The program allows qualified students to receive financial assistance for attending a Missouri community college, vocational or technical school.

**HB 2262
(Missouri Youth Challenge Academy)**

- Allows the Adjutant General to re-establish the Missouri Youth Challenge Academy for at-risk high school students. The residential, military-based academy will provide work experience and training in citizenship, life-coping and academic skills, and other personal development skills.
- The program previously operated in Missouri from 1999 to 2002, graduating around 800 at-risk youth.

**HB 1893
(Funding for Veterans)**

- Increases funding for the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF) by directing a percentage of funds received from gaming to the VCCITF.
- Funds may be used for capital costs at veterans homes and cemeteries, transfers to the Veterans Homes Funds, matching funds for veterans service officer programs, and expenses incurred by the Missouri Veterans Commission in issuing medals.

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