

# Making Missouri a Military-Friendly State



Senator David Pearce  
Oct. 13, 2014  
Warrensburg City Council

# 2005-2010 — 10 Sessions of Military-Friendly Legislation

- ❖ The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC)
- ❖ Created in 2005 by Senate Bill 252 (Koster) and House Bill 348 (Pearce).
- ❖ Mission of MMPEC - to advise the governor and General Assembly on military issues and industrial development related to military issues.
- ❖ Founding members included Robert Welling and Rep. David Pearce.
- ❖ MMPEC has directly impacted most military-friendly legislation since its creation.

# MMPEC Commission Members

- ❖ Michael Dunbar, chair
- ❖ Lt. Colonel Michael Sloan
- ❖ Adm. J. Stanton Thompson
- ❖ Bob Hagedorn
- ❖ Bob Russell
- ❖ General Assembly Members
  - ❖ Sen. Will Kraus
  - ❖ Sen. Jason Holsman
  - ❖ Rep. Michael Frame
  - ❖ Rep. Charlie Davis
- ❖ Ex-officio Members
  - ❖ Mike Downing, Missouri Department of Economic Development
  - ❖ General Larry Kay, Missouri Veterans Commission

# Passed in 2014

## ❖ House Bill 1125

- ❖ Allows a member of the Armed Forces on active duty to file for candidacy via certified mail or by proxy.

## ❖ House Bill 1724

- ❖ Allows the Adjutant General to provide assistance or services from the Missouri Military Family Relief fund to members of the U.S. Armed Forces or Missouri National Guard.

# State Treasurer Zweifel reports from Missouri Military Partnership

- ❖ Three key recommendations from the report:
  - ❖ Create the Missouri Military Foundation.
    - ❖ Would create partnerships to help grow the state's defense-centered economy.
  - ❖ Partner with community colleges and government agencies to support Missouri military members via financial education.
    - ❖ Would help service members and families avoid typical financial issues.
  - ❖ Create agreements between labor organizations and employers.
    - ❖ Bring together these leaders and service members to expand on military experience and create future opportunities.

# 2013

- ❖ Senate Bill 116 (2013) took effect July 1.
- ❖ Allows Missourians living overseas — including military — to register to vote and request absentee ballots online through a new website set up by the Secretary of State's office.
- ❖ Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal
- ❖ [www.momilitaryvote.com](http://www.momilitaryvote.com)

❖ HCR 11

- ❖ Encourages Missouri Veterans Commission to work with U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to address the needs of women veterans.

❖ HCR 13

- ❖ Urges the U.S. Air Force to retain the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 106**
- ❖ Creates the Honor and Remember flag.
- ❖ Allows certain military courses to count as higher education credit.
- ❖ Establishes child custody and visitation rights of deployed military parent.

- ❖ **House Bills 374 & 434**
- ❖ Authorizes creation of treatment courts for veterans.
- ❖ Veterans' courts would handle cases involving substance abuse or mental illness of current or former military personnel.



# 2012

- ❖ House Bill 1731
- ❖ Creates a dedicated funding source for Missouri's seven veterans' homes and five veterans' cemeteries.
- ❖ Increases annual funding for Missouri National Guard Trust Fund.

# 2011

- ❖ House Bill 136

- ❖ If a spouse quits a job to relocate with a military spouse, that person will not be disqualified for waiting week credit or benefits.
- ❖ Streamlines the process by which non-resident military spouses can apply for professional licenses in order to perform a job.

# 2010

- ❖ **House Bill 1524**
- ❖ Requires the Missouri Secretary of State to establish procedures for overseas voters and military members to request voter registration and absentee ballot applications.
- ❖ Loosens restrictions on military dependents to be eligible for the A+ Schools Program.
- ❖ Redefines “primary next of kin” as it relates to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

# 2009

## ❖ House Bill 82

- ❖ Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, authorizes a 15% deduction for and military retirement income. Increases by 15% annually until full phase-in Jan. 1, 2016.

## ❖ House Bill 427

- ❖ Allows dependents of active military members stationed in Missouri to receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, no matter if the military member is re-assigned outside the state.
- ❖ Adds four legislators to the Missouri Veterans Commission: two from the Senate and two from the House.

# 2007

- ❖ House Bill 444
- ❖ Authorizes an income tax deduction to be phased in over six years for Social Security benefits, Social Security disability benefits, and benefits received from a non-private retirement system for individuals 62 years of age or older.
- ❖ Maximum deduction level reached in 2012.

# 2005

- ❖ Senate Bill 252 and House Bill 348
- ❖ Creates MMPEC
- ❖ Gives the Johnson County Planning Commission the responsibility of the planning, zoning and building within the unincorporated area 3,000 feet out from the boundaries of WAFB.
  - ❖ Information regarding this area is available from Johnson County at [www.jococourthouse.com/azc](http://www.jococourthouse.com/azc).

For a copy of this presentation, please visit [www.senate.mo.gov/pearce](http://www.senate.mo.gov/pearce) and click on “Publications.”

