



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
 VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

900 EAST MAIN STREET
 RICHMOND, VA 23219

*Air Force Association
 American Legion
 AMVETS
 Association of the United States Army
 Disabled American Veterans
 Fleet Reserve Association
 Korean War Veterans Association
 Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
 Marine Corps League
 Military Order of the Purple Heart
 Military Officers Association of America
 Military Order of the World Wars
 National Association for Uniformed Services of America
 Navy Seabee Veterans of America
 Non-Commissioned Officers Association
 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Reserve Officers Association
 Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
 Virginia National Guard Association
 Women Marines Association*

**Summary of 2016 Initiatives
 December 18, 2015**

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2016-01 <i>Veterans Care Centers</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly continue state support for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects by appropriating an additional \$29.3 million in state funding to complete the construction of both centers.
JLC 2016-02 <i>DVS Benefits Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly 1) increase the Benefits Services division's budget by \$903,000 (GF) in FY17 and \$1,324,000 (GF) in FY18, and 2) increase staffing levels by seven positions in FY17 and nine positions in FY18, to complete the three-year plan to strengthen and expand the DVS Benefits Services division.
JLC 2016-03 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$2,147,591 (GF) and authorize 39 new positions for VVFS in FY17 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee workforce. FY18 funding should be \$98,831 (GF) above FY17 levels.
JLC 2016-04 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$509,985 (GF) in FY17 and \$800,235 (GF) in FY18, and authorize three additional positions, to ensure that the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.
JLC 2016-05 <i>Virginia Taxes and Veteran Service Organizations</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation to extend to 501(c)(19) Veterans Service Organizations the exemptions provided for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.
JLC 2016-06 <i>Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly authorize three positions and appropriate \$400,000 (GF) in FY17, continue at these levels in FY18, and pass the legislation necessary to assist former military medics and corpsmen in continuing to use their skills learned in the service and to place them on a path to careers in Virginia health care industry.

<p>JLC 2016-07 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.</p>
<p>JLC 2016-08 <i>VCCS Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate the funding necessary to establish dedicated Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers on Virginia Community College System campuses to coordinate and centralize campus efforts to aid veterans in transitioning from military service and achieving success on campus.</p>
<p>JLC 2016-09 <i>Veterans Dockets</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly take the legislative and/or budget actions necessary to allow local courts to establish a Veterans Docket under the supervision of the Virginia Supreme Court.</p>
<p>JLC 2016-10 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans</p>
<p>JLC 2016-11 <i>VMSDEP</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When determining eligibility for higher education benefits under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for education benefits. b. Evaluate whether funding from other programs could potentially offset the increased cost to the VMSDEP.
<p>JLC 2016-12 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly promote the development, approval, and budgeting of secure procedures to permit the electronic return of absentee ballot by overseas uniformed military voters.</p>