



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

101 N. 14TH ST, 17TH FLOOR
 RICHMOND VA 23219

Air Force Association
 American Legion
 AMVETS
 Association of the United States Army
 Disabled American Veterans
 Fifth Baptist Church Veterans' Ministry
 Fleet Reserve Association
 Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
 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
 Navy Mutual Aid Association
 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

Adopted Oct 21, 2020
 Revised Nov 20, 2020

Summary of 2021 JLC Initiatives

*Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at:
<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>*

Initiative	Recommendation
JLC 2021-01 <i>Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income Disabled Veterans</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federal adjusted gross income, not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.
JLC 2021-02 <i>Promote Hiring of Virginia National Guard and Reserve Members</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve \$50,000 to create a grant program to incentivize small to medium-sized Virginia employers to hire members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves.
JLC 2021-03 <i>Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Members</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly amend the Code of Virginia to provide a real estate property tax exemption to both the surviving spouses of service members who were “ <i>Killed in Action</i> ” and those who “ <i>died while serving or from a service connected injury or illness.</i> ”
JLC 2021-04 <i>Disabled Veteran State Park Passport</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly expand the Virginia Disabled Veteran’s Passport to any Virginia veteran who has been found to have a service-connected compensable or non-compensable disability.
JLC 2021-05 <i>Reduced Price Annual Passes to Virginia State Parks for Guard Members</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly grant a 50% reduced price annual passes to Virginia State parks to members of the Virginia National Guard.
JLC 2021-06 <i>No Cost License Plates for guard Members</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly further reduce the cost of license plates to recognize the service and commitment of our National Guard members, by changing the current 50% reduced price for a maximum of two license plates per household and registrations to 100% reduction for a single (1) license plate and registration.

<p>JLC 2021-07 <i>Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Income</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly support changes to the current Virginia tax laws for a partial exemption of military retirement pay to reduce state tax on military retirement income.</p>
<p>JLC 2021-08 <i>Support for the Department of Veterans Services' Programs and Services</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly take action to restore the funding for critical DVS programs and services.</p>
<p>Letters</p> <p><i>At the October 21, 2020 meeting, the JLC voted to address two policy proposals with letters. These are also posted on the JLC webpage at https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2</i></p>	
<p><i>Revision to the Code of Virginia Ensuring VSO honor Guards, Color Guards, and Rifle Teams are Exempted from Inadvertent Impacts of State Statutes</i></p>	<p>The 2020 General Assembly amended §18.2-433.2 of the Code of Virginia to make a person guilty of unlawful paramilitary activity punishable as a Class 5 felony, if he:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“1. Teaches or demonstrates to any other person the use, application, or Making of any firearm... 2. Assembles with one or more persons for the purpose of training with practicing with, or being instructed in the use of any firearm... 3. Violates subsection A of § 18.2-282 while assembled with one or more persons for the purpose of and with the intent to intimidate any person or group of persons.”</p> <p>The JLC’s concern is that a VSO honor guard, color guard, or rifle team member may be inadvertently be identified as a member of a paramilitary organization and held liable. The JLC requests that the Code be amended to provide a specific exemption for these activities.</p>
<p><i>Support for Annual State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program briefings for National Guard Members</i></p>	<p>The JLC supports efforts to ensure Virginia National Guard members receive an annual briefing on the SSLI program, facilitated and coordinated through the Adjutant General.</p>