



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

101 N. 14TH ST, 17<sup>TH</sup> 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*
- 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 September 9, 2021

## Summary of 2022 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>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>JLC 2022-01</b> <i>Suicide Prevention among SMVF</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve funding and corresponding legislation to create a dedicated (Service Members, Veterans, and their Families) SMVF coordinator position in the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to continue to unify efforts in this area; build on efforts to identify, screen for risk, and refer to resources; to research, study and provide timely data on actual method/cause of suicides in the Commonwealth; to help roll out an online training tool for front-line providers; and to continue to build public awareness in this area.
<b>JLC 2022-02</b> <i>Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty"</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation that extends the real estate tax exemption for the surviving spouses of military service members who die while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America to include those whose deaths were found to be "within the line of duty," as determined by the Department of Defense.
<b>JLC 2022-03</b> <i>VSO Color and Honor Guards</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly amend §18.2-433.2 to grant an exemption to Veteran Service Organizations performing authorized color guard activities such as parades or dedication ceremonies and honor guard activities such as funerals or dedication ceremonies as well as the teaching, training, and practices necessary to achieve and maintain a level of professional proficiency.
<b>JLC 2022-04</b> <i>Increase GF Support for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse Burial Fees</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$300,000 (GF) to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services so that the spouse burial charge may be eliminated at Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries, and that Virginia work with Congress to secure the funding (in the VA budget) to extend the VA plot allowance to spouses at all state veterans cemeteries nationwide.

<b>JLC 2022-05</b> <i>Promote Hiring of 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.
<b>JLC 2022-06</b> <i>Virginia National Guard State Park Admission</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly grant free or reduced price admission to Virginia State parks to members of the Virginia National Guard.
<b>JLC 2022-07</b> <i>Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly adjust increase the amount of income excluded from State Income Tax from \$3,000 to \$5,000, and that this amount be adjusted every five years to account for inflation.