



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

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

*Air Force Association
 Air Force Sergeants
 Association
 American Legion
 AMVETS
 Association of the United
 States Army
 Disabled American
 Veterans
 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
 Paralyzed Veterans of
 America
 Reserve Organization of
 America
 Roanoke Valley Veterans
 Council
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 Virginia Army/Air National
 Guard Enlisted
 Association
 Virginia National Guard
 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>

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2022-01 <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.
JLC 2022-02 <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 “ <i>within the line of duty</i> ,” as determined by the Department of Defense.
JLC 2022-03 <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.
JLC 2022-04 <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.

JLC 2022-05 <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.
JLC 2022-06 <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.
JLC 2022-07 <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.