



# NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA

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## 2018 Public Policy Objectives

**The objective of the NGAI public policy agenda is to advocate for quality of life improvements for our Soldiers, Airmen and Families by:**

- Improving the state of Indiana's ranking as a military/veteran friendly state attracting and retaining Hoosier Veterans as the workforce of choice and best ROI
- Enhance state policy to support Recruiting and Retention of Indiana Guardsmen

### **1. Support Governor's initiatives on Exemption of Military Pay Fund Study for State Income Tax Exempt Status of All Military Pay**

- Conduct a comprehensive economic impact study, to secure the total exemption in 2018 if it is found to be economically sound.

To create an incentive to attract and secure veterans and retirees back to Indiana to fuel the Indiana Economy by providing a highly trained, experienced and disciplined workforce. IGA needs to understand the economic force of our military members whether actively serving, retired or veteran. If the military/veteran population were treated like a business, there would be many tax incentives offered to locate in Indiana.

### **2. Hoosier Veteran and Spouse State Hiring Preference**

- Institute a hiring preference through legislation or Executive Order for State employment of Hoosier Veterans and spouses.

### **Current State Employment Benefits**

Indiana offers Veterans' preference in State Government employment for Veterans, their surviving Spouses and the Spouses of disabled Veterans. Employment preferences, where numerically based examinations are used as a device for selections, consists of adding ten points to the score of Veterans, disabled Veterans, Spouses of disabled or missing Veterans, and Widow(er)s of Veterans who lost their life during a period of war. Language needs to be updated to "Hoosier Veteran".

### **3. Employer State Tax Credit for Hiring Unemployed Hoosier Veterans**

- Legislation will be authored to create a \$2000 employer tax credit for hiring unemployed or honorably discharged Hoosier Veterans who do not qualify for the federal tax credit program.

After recent changes, The Returning Heroes Tax Credit now provides incentives of up to \$5,600 for hiring unemployed veterans, and the Wounded Warriors Tax Credit doubles the existing Work

Opportunity Tax Credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities, to up to \$9,600.

**Veterans who qualify under the Federal rules benefit from a Federal tax credit as an incentive for employers. Hoosier Veterans including Guardsmen and Reservists who serve honorably, and do not meet the Federal Guidelines are disadvantaged because they cannot offer a credit for employers.**

#### **4. Restoration of Full Remission of Education Tuition Fee Benefits to Disabled Hoosier Veteran Families**

- Reverse 2011 legislation which tiered the remission to the percentage of disability rating returning it to its original language

Remission of fees was the most significant benefit welcoming Veterans to return to Indiana following military service and keeping Hoosier Veterans in Indiana. 2011 legislation created a tiered system with a base of 20% remission added to your VA disability rating. A disabled veteran with a zero rating now receives 0 + 20% tuition discount. Legislation grandfathered currently serving as of July 1, 2011, thereby creating a tiered Hoosier Veteran status of benefits. (2011 SB 577, Sen Luke Kenley)

#### **5. Study creative public private (NGAIF) partnership opportunities which support INNG Recruiting and Retention:**

- Work toward the creation of a funding mechanism to pay for the State Sponsored Life Insurance program for every active drilling Guardsman.
- Develop creative funding opportunities to pay fees for currently serving National Guardsmen and families for State parks and recreational areas and hunting & fishing licenses for currently serving members.

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