

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6518

BILL NUMBER: HB 1343

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 5, 2026

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Military and Veteran Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bartels

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Pending

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires certain water vessels to include an engine cut-off switch. It provides that a sailing vessel at least seven meters in length must comply with federal regulations.

The bill makes changes to the employment eligibility requirements for employees of the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA).

The bill makes changes to the purpose of the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). It provides that IDVA shall report to the Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission (commission), at least quarterly, as to the status of all applications regarding assistance from the fund during the previous quarter. It adds provisions indicating who is eligible for a grant from MFRF. The bill provides that IDVA shall make a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's financial condition and needs when making a determination regarding an award from MFRF. It provides that an applicant may not be eligible for assistance from MFRF if the applicant's federal gross income, or the combined federal gross income of the applicant and the applicant's spouse, exceeds two times the poverty guideline unless the commission approves an income waiver. It provides that an applicant must establish that the applicant has incurred a genuine hardship to be eligible to receive assistance from MFRF. The bill provides that IDVA or commission may impose stipulations or conditions concerning an applicant seeking an award from the MFRF. It makes changes to the subject matter that must be included in administrative rules established by the commission. It makes certain changes relating to the review of grants from the MFRF to employees of IDVA. It also provides that an applicant may appeal a denied request for short term financial assistance from the MFRF.

The bill authorizes the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard (Adjutant General) to establish a military police force of the Indiana National Guard. Provides that a member of the military police force of the Indiana National Guard has police powers:

- (1) when the member is called to state active duty; and
- (2) if the individual successfully completes either army or air military police occupational training and receives qualifying instruction on Indiana law enforcement prescribed by the Adjutant General.

The bill makes changes to the authorized duties and responsibilities of the Adjutant General in which the State Armory Board (board) may make contributions. It provides that the board may utilize any and all appropriate methods to lease or purchase real estate. It provides that an armory may not be erected on land that is leased for less than 25 years. (Current law provides that an armory may not be erected on land that is leased for less than 50 years.) It also provides that the board may adopt policies or procedures for the use and governance of armories. (Current law authorizes the board to adopt rules for the use and governance of armories.) The bill specifies the types of donated property that the board may reconvey if the board determines that the property is no longer usable. It provides that if the board receives from the Adjutant General information of the disbandment of the organization of the armed forces of Indiana occupying and using an armory, the board shall take charge of the armory. It also makes various changes to provisions relating to the sale of property owned by the board.

This bill establishes the Indiana Civilian Cyber Corps program (program) as a subdivision of the Indiana Guard Reserve. It provides that the program includes civilian volunteers who have expertise in addressing cybersecurity incidents and who volunteer at the invitation of the Adjutant General. It provides that the work product of a Civilian Cyber Corps volunteer or adviser, including any information voluntarily submitted to the volunteer or adviser, is exempt from disclosure. It also provides that a Civilian Cyber Corps volunteer or adviser is immune from tort liability for an injury to a person or damage to property that occurs while the volunteer or adviser is deployed and acting on behalf of the Adjutant General if certain conditions are met.

The bill provides that the Adjutant General may appoint additional general officers. (Current law authorizes the appointment of assistant adjutants general.)

The bill changes the definitions of "veteran" for purposes of provisions relating to: (1) the Governor's commission on supplier diversity; (2) the state civil service system; and (3) authorizing preference points for the appointment of veterans.

The bill removes a requirement that the National Guard Tuition Supplement Grant (NGTSG) must be used within eight years after the date the individual first applies and becomes eligible for benefits.

The bill repeals:

- (1) the Indiana Cyber Civilian Corps Program Advisory Board;
- (2) a provision relating to contracts to use Stout Field as a commercial runway;
- (3) a definition of "qualified service member";
- (4) a provision requiring a muffler or underwater exhaust for a boat; and
- (5) a provision prohibiting the use of a boat motor equipped with a muffler cutout or bypass.

The bill makes technical corrections and conforming amendments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *As of the above date, the fiscal analysis of this bill has not been completed. Please contact the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for an update of this fiscal impact statement.*

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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