

Please forward to the Cal-MOAA membership?

Cal-MOAA: The Governor released his proposed budget today. This is the first step in the yearly state budget process. The Governor presents his version of the budget to the Legislature which reflects the priorities of the Governor and the needs of the state agencies and departments who work for him.

This version of the budget will be taken by the Senate and the Assembly and each house will hold hearings, take public comment, deliberate, and make changes to the Governor's budget. When that process is done, the Senate and Assembly will compare their two versions of the budget and convene a Conference Committee to compare the differences and vote them into one unified budget. Both houses will then vote on it. Once that is done, the Legislature sends that version of the budget back to the Governor for his approval. The Governor can't add items back into this budget, but he can "blue pencil" or remove or reduce budget allocations. The deadline for the Governor to sign the Budget is June 15.

**Items pertaining to veterans in the Governor's budget:**

- Includes \$50 million to provide credits for businesses that hire individuals who have employment barriers in the workforce, such as parolees, CalWORKs recipients, and veterans.
- Continuing progress on civil service reform over the years, the Governor is continuing to systemically improve the civil service system by increasing recruitment of underrepresented communities, veterans, and persons with disabilities.
- The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 proposes a \$4 billion bond on the November 2018 ballot. The first \$3 billion of the bond will support various existing housing programs. The remaining \$1 billion

will be available to support home ownership for veterans, with down payment assistance, reduced fees and closing costs, and competitive interest rates.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs operates eight veterans homes and three state veterans cemeteries. The Budget includes \$15.7 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase of a new Skilled Nursing Facility at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. The project represents CalVet's top priority—to address the changing nature of long-term care with a particular emphasis on providing skilled nursing and memory care services in a non-institutional, homelike environment. The Budget also includes \$571,000 from the California Central Coast State Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Ord Operations Fund for the working drawings phase for the continuation of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery project.
- The Governor's budget also maintains the current funding of \$5.6 million in Local Assistance funding for County Veterans Service Officers.
- Funding is included to begin a fully developed effort to fund claims representatives in the state prisons to assist incarcerated veterans.

We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress of the budget process. Remember that the Legislature can change what is in the Governor's budget, so we must be vigilant and be prepared to fight for the funding issues important to us.

Thank you,

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