

Gov. Martinez pens military support bill

Written by Staff report
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Santa Fe, NM — Today, Governor Susana Martinez signed several pieces of legislation that provide support for New Mexico’s military members, veterans, and their families.

“New Mexicans have always stood ready to answer the call to serve our state and nation in the U.S. Armed Forces,” Governor Martinez said. “We want to continue to recognize our military members and our veterans for their service, and signing these bills into law help do that.”

Senate Bill 506, sponsored by Senator William Payne (R-Albuquerque), allows disabled veterans to transfer their property tax exemption to a new home. Until now, they would lose this important exemption when they move.

House Bill 203, sponsored by Representative Alonzo Baldonado (R-Los Lunas), provides a 50 percent discount on any hunting or fishing license to all New Mexico veteran and military members.

House Bill 220, sponsored by Representative John Zimmerman (R-Las Cruces), allows members of the New Mexico National Guard to receive the maximum amount of life insurance available from the Federal Service Members’ Group Life Insurance Program.

House Bill 327, also sponsored by Representative Zimmerman, will allow all New Mexico military personnel deployed overseas to receive valuable assistance for their family. Among other things, the assistance – funded through income tax donations – provides necessities such as food and clothing. Previously, only those specifically serving in support of the “Global War on Terrorism” were eligible.

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House Bill 427, sponsored by Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard (D-Los Alamos), brings New Mexico into compliance with federal G.I. Bill guidelines. This will allow veterans' family members to receive in-state tuition, allowing them to earn a college education at an affordable cost.