

## AB 305 (Maienschein) "Ask the Question": Veterans Services

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Defense, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee voted to SUPPORT the bill on April 7, 2021. The Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT on May 11, 2021. The Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT on May 27, 2021.

**RATIONALE:** AB 305 addresses the need to improve access to services and benefits for veterans, service members and their families.

**STATUS:** Passed through the Assembly and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs on June 15, 2021.

### SUMMARY

State agencies are currently required to include a question on their online and print forms whether an individual is a veteran.

AB 305 would require 13 state agencies to ask, "Have you or a family member ever served in the United States military?" on their online and print intake forms. If the answer is yes, the agencies will be required to ask applicants permission to give their contact information to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be notified of eligibility for state and federal veterans benefits. Information voluntarily provided to the VA would include: name, email address, mailing address and mobile telephone number.

### INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

No direct industry impact.

### SUPPORTERS

- Department of Defense
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- San Diego Military Advisory Council

### OPPONENTS

- None known

### ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

- There are approximately 1.8 million veterans living in California. Veterans have identified a top barrier to accessing benefits was because "they do not feel understood by the providers who serve them."
- AB 305 would expand awareness of eligibility for benefits by requiring state agencies to connect individuals to the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide

### ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

- NA

information and assistance to receive eligible benefits.