



THE LEGISLATIVE BUZZ (CONT.)

On the Commonwealth Scene: The Virginia Joint Leadership Council (JLC) made up of 23 Veteran Services Organizations, to include the Virginia Council of Chapters (MOAA), continues to work on veterans' initiatives for the next session of the General Assembly. During its July meeting the JLC approved four new Legislative Objectives (LO's) for consideration by the Department of Veteran Services and the Governor in the development of the next budget to be presented to the 2012 Session of the General Assembly. These are subject to change during the budget development process*.

- 1. Provide a state sales tax exemption for 501(c)19 Veteran Service Organizations** for products purchased for internal use [this does not include MOAA chapters or the Council].
- 2. Place a special Veteran designator on driver's licenses for veterans** to use to qualify for discounts, special rates, and at other times when veterans' service documentation is required.
- 3. Reduce veteran homelessness in Virginia.** The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) 2010 report on Reducing Veteran Homelessness in Virginia will be used to develop specific Legislative Objectives.
- 4. Require reporting of Unclaimed Veteran Cremains.** Despite an agreement between four mortuary organizations in Virginia that requires mortuaries to report to Department of Veteran Services (DVS) any unclaimed cremains to enable DVS to identify a veteran's cremains, only one organization is cooperating. The proposed legislation would require all mortuaries to report these cremains. Mortuaries are reluctant to report these due to the possibility that the process will increase their expenses.

**Bottom line: the final/approved JLC listing of legislative objectives and related "Position Papers" will not occur until after the JLC 20 December meeting when the Gov's Budget (scheduled for release on 19 December) is reviewed and any required changes are made by JLC.*

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