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Veterans

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VETERANS

Legislative activity in the area covering veterans' rights was narrow in scope. One limited change in substantive law resulted. Chapter 69 authorizes minor veterans and their wives, otherwise competent, to enter into binding contracts for the realization of benefits conferred by Congressional legislation.¹ Chapter 227 was also designed to expedite the realization of such benefits. This Act makes available as a matter of right, without charge, initial certified copies of records necessary to the procurement of benefits under Federal and State laws. This is accomplished by the imposition of a duty to provide such records upon any holder of a public office in which the records are filed.

The legislative intent was not directed entirely toward the perfection of past rights. An Act of 1941 had provided for a one-thousand dollar deduction from the taxable property of *partially disabled* World War I veterans or their widows.² Chapter 352 of the Acts of 1947 extends the operation of that Act to partially disabled veterans of "any war of the United States." The deductible amount is also increased to two-thousand dollars. The requirement of ten per cent or more service-connected disability remains the same. Chapter 63 allows as alternative evidence of the applicant's right to exemption his check for disability compensation from the Veteran's Administration. Formerly, only a letter or certificate

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7. Id. §2901. If the Social Security Administration finds that any monies granted to the state have been lost or expended for purposes other than, or in excess of those found necessary for the proper administration of this act, the Governor upon notification is required to submit a request for appropriation to the General Assembly for the replacement amount.
 8. Id. § 3902. The act of 1945 short title was Unemployment Compensation Law.
 1. Servicemens Readjustment Act of 1944, 58 Stat. 284 (1944), as amended, 38 U.S.C. §693 (Supp. 1946).
 2. Ind. Acts 1941, c. 95, §1, Ind. Stat. Ann. (Burns, Repl. 1943) §64-223.

from the Veteran's Administration was sufficient.³ The same provision is made with respect to applications of *totally-disabled* veterans by Chapter 62.⁴ A property tax exemption for *totally-disabled* veterans of "any of the wars of the United States" had been provided by an act of 1927.⁵ The procedure for claiming the above deduction remains substantially the same. The applicant must appear before the county auditor at a specified time each year and make a sworn statement of eligibility.

Chapter 152 is the only other legislation directly touching veterans' affairs. This act provides for determining the pulse of the electorate on the advisability of a state soldier's bonus and the desirability of five alternative methods of financing the same. The question is to be submitted to the voters on separate ballot at the next general election.

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3. Ind. Acts 1941, c. 95, §2, Ind. Stat. Ann. (Burns, Repl. 1943) §64-224.
 4. Amending Ind. Acts 1927, c. 175, §2, Ind. Stat. Ann. (Burns, Repl. 1943) §64-206.
 5. Ind. Act 1927, c. 175, §1, Ind. Stat. Ann. (Burns, Repl. 1943) §64-205.