

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

**Resolution No. 84: Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been the leading veterans advocacy organization since its inception in 1919; and

WHEREAS, Such advocacy resulted in the creation and passage of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, and the original GI Bill, codifying into federal law benefits earned by active and former members of the United States military as a result of their honorable service during a time of war; and

WHEREAS, Both the GI Bill and SCRA have been legislatively updated on occasion by the United States Congress to reflect societal changes and rising costs of providing said benefits; and

WHEREAS, One of these benefits allows servicemembers to keep their residency at one state throughout their military service, rather than changing it after every permanent change of station move for tax purposes; and

WHEREAS, Spouses are not protected or given this benefit as spouses are forced to legally change their state of residency for state and local income tax purposes after each move, which can cause undue financial burden to the servicemember; and

WHEREAS, It is the intention of the SCRA to protect members of the United States military called to active-duty by duly authorized and issued orders and their immediate family; and

WHEREAS, Such protection is not extended to include the necessary termination of a contract under family or group plans, nor to the necessary cancellation of reservations for air or train transportation, resulting in unnecessary, unintended and expensive costs incurred by servicemembers who are obeying the task placed upon them by duly authorized orders; and

WHEREAS, Such costs coincide with negative credit reports which further exacerbate the ability of the servicemember to perform his or her duty, and impacts the ability of the individual or family to realize the American dream and own a home by punitive credit rates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That Congress be urged to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to include protections for members of the armed forces, and their families, acting under duly authorized and issued orders to include, but not limited to, deployment and temporary duty assignment orders against fees, fines and the resulting negative credit reports by cancellation of ticketed travel on U.S. airlines or train transportation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports amending the current Servicemember Civil Relief Act to include extending residency benefits to military spouses for tax purposes, thus, alleviating any unnecessary financial burden to the servicemember.