



## State Legislative Update for the Week of April 13 - 17, 2015

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: **Senate State Departments and Veterans Budget Division**

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Agenda:

**SF 888** (Saxhaug): State government, veterans and military affairs appropriations bill. Relative to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, the bill, as amended, provides the requested funding for Programs and Services Division and Veterans Healthcare. Language riders are also in place that continue funding for our veterans service partners. The bill was passed and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: **Senate Rules and Administration**

Chair: Sen. Tom Bakk

Agenda:

**SF 1828** (Reinert): Resolution memorializing Congress and the President of the United States to provide funding to maintain and restore the historic Fort Snelling Officers' Club building and to provide additional funding to support the valuable services of the 934th Airlift Wing at the club. The resolution was recommended to pass.

Committee: **House State Government Finance**

Chair: Rep. Sarah Anderson

Agenda:

**HF 506** (Schoen): Temporary licensing provided for former and current members of the military. The bill was moved and laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus State Government Finance Bill.

Committee: **Senate Finance – Subcommittee on Legacy**

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

Agenda:

**SF 353** (Saxhaug): Veterans voices month appropriation. The bill appropriates \$100,000 in FY16 to the Minnesota Humanities Center to build educational resources and events for October as Veterans Voices Month. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Bill.

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

**House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

**Committee Hearings**

Committee: **House State Government Finance**

Chair: Rep. Sarah Anderson

Agenda:

**HF 495** (Anderson): Counties permitted to have audits performed by certified public accountant firms. This is the vehicle for the State Government Finance Omnibus Bill. The appropriation for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs in FY2016 would be \$65,254,000 and in 2017 it would be \$63,360,000. The bill, as amended, was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Committee: **Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division**

Chair: Sen. Tony Lourey

Agenda:

**SF 1428** (Westrom): Stearns county service provider serving veterans grant appropriation. Provides \$85,000 in each year of the biennium for a grant to Stearns County to provide administrative funding in support of a service provider serving veterans in Stearns County. This is a onetime appropriation. The bill was recommended to pass for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Health and Human Services Budget Bill.

Committee: **House Health and Human Services Finance**

Chair: Rep. Matt Dean

Agenda:

**HF 877** (Anderson): Stearns County; group residential housing modified by requiring supplementary service rate. This bill provides a supplementary service rate for a GRH

provider located in Stearns County. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance Bill.

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

**Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

**House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

**Committee Hearings**

Committee: **Senate Finance Committee**

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

Agenda:

**HF 283** (Gazelka): Camp Ripley sentinel landscape designation and coordinating committee establishment. Committee report was passed, as amended.

**SF 888** (Saxhaug): State government, veterans and military affairs appropriation bill. The committee report was passed, as amended. The bill provides funding for MDVA based on the Governor's original recommendation, which would not be sufficient in maintaining MDVA's two divisions. As a result, the Governor recommended an additional \$10.79M for the Department to off-set a pending deficit. SF 888 does not include this latest appropriation for MDVA.

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

**Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

**House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

**Upcoming Committee Hearings of Veterans Interest  
Week of April 20 - 24, 2015**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015**

Committee: Senate State and Local Government

Chair: Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 10:15 AM

Agenda:

Confirmation of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, Larry Shellito