



State Legislative Update for February 20 - 26, 2016

Veterans Day on the Hill

Mark your calendars, this year's Veterans Day on the Hill will be on Wednesday, March 16th. It will start with a rally at 10am at the Cedar Street Armory (600 Cedar St, St. Paul). There will be time to meet with legislators to discuss the 2016 Commanders' Task Force legislative agenda. The event is hosted by Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

NOTE: If you do plan on attending schedule a meeting with your Senator and Representative as soon as possible. You can use this webpage to find your legislator. <http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>

Committee Hearings

House:

The State Government Finance committee continued its meeting tour with a stop in Willmar on Tuesday. Members in attendance included Chair Sarah Anderson, Mark Anderson, Dave Baker, Bob Dettmer, Lyndon Carlson, Tim Miller, Mike Nelson, Cindy Pugh and Linda Runbeck. The agenda differed from previous meetings. There was a long discussion regarding [House File 1414](#), which would build new Veterans homes in Montevideo and Bemidji. A delegation from Montevideo described their plan. After that discussion Rep. Dettmer reviewed legislation that was passed in 2015 and is pending approval at the state legislature.

The West Central Tribune was on hand to write about the hearing-

<http://www.wctrib.com/news/local/3954862-veterans-make-plea-legislators-veterans-nursing-home-montevideo>

On Thursday the committee went to Brainerd to hear from Veterans. Members that made the trip were Chair Sarah Anderson, Lyndon Carlson, Josh Heintzeman, Jeff Howe, Sheldon Johnson, Dale Lueck, Mike Nelson and Cindy Pugh. Rep. Howe, a Veteran, led another review of Veterans legislation that has either been approved or is pending. Then the committee heard from multiple people in attendance. Topics discussed were VA Hospital care, the choice program, dental service and oral health and honoring Veterans. This was the last scheduled hearing outside of the Capitol for the State Government Finance committee.

The Brainerd Dispatch summarized the meeting with this article-

<http://www.brainerddispatch.com/news/3956426-veterans-raise-issues-legislators>

Next week the House Capital Investment committee will hold a meeting to hear about bonding projects included in the Governor's proposal. MDVA is scheduled to discuss its projects from 2:20-2:40. The meeting will start at 9:00am in Room 10 of the State Office Building.

Senate:

The Senate did not hold any hearings related to Veterans issues.

Legislation

The 2016 session is scheduled to begin at noon on Tuesday, March 8.