



Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of April 15 - 19, 2013

Monday, April 15, 2013

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 10:00 AM

Note: The committee will meet until session at 3:00 and, if necessary, reconvene after session to complete the agenda.

Agenda:

HF1184 (Murphy): Omnibus State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs Bill.

Also on Monday, SF1589 State Departments and Veterans Finance Omnibus bill will be debated on the Senate floor.

State Legislative Week in Review Week of April 8 - 12, 2013

Monday, April 8, 2013

Committee Hearings

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda:

Phase III: Building the Omnibus State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs Bill. Amendments will be taken to the Delete Everything amendment to HF1184. The bill contains the biennial appropriation for MDVA including IT upgrades in Programs and Services and the Veterans Homes; operational costs for the Veterans Cemetery in Fillmore County; base funding for Honor Guards and the Gold Star Program; and increased

funding for the CVSO grants along with program modification. An amendment was passed that would reinstate language pertaining to the MN GI Bill identifying eligible veterans as those who had been awarded specific campaign or expeditionary medals. It was determined that to eliminate the list of medals may possibly restrict those veterans eligible for the MN GI Bill, which was not the intent. MDVA wants to expand those eligible to include all veterans and not just post 9/11.

Additional policy provisions include:

- State and municipal employees who are members of the National Guard or reserve are allowed to choose when during the year they take their 15 days of paid military leave.
- Evidence of rehabilitation to include an honorable discharge from the military subsequent to the person's adjudication for the crime. This may remove barriers to obtaining certain public employment.
- Towns and cities are authorized to give contract preferences to veteran-owned small businesses.
- Minnesota Peace Officer Reciprocity Exam is open to individuals who are currently serving in the military.

The bill was laid over.

Committee: Senate Transportation and Public Safety Division

Chair: Sen. Scott Dibble

Agenda:

SF1321 (Pederson): Disabled veterans free public transit rides appropriation. This bill appropriates \$90,000 each year of the biennium from the general fund to the Commissioner of Transportation for grants to greater Minnesota transit provides as reimbursement for the costs of providing free rides to disabled veterans. The bill, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

Agenda:

Presentation of delete everything amendment to HF270 Omnibus Bonding bill. In this \$800,000,000 bonding bill, MDVA receives \$5,335,000 in asset

preservation for the five Veterans Homes and the Little Falls cemetery as follows:

Fergus Falls	\$ 275,000
Hastings	\$1,635,000
Luverne	\$ 770,000
Minneapolis	\$1,630,000
Silver Bay	\$ 975,000
Little Falls Cemetery	\$ 70,000

The House Omnibus Bonding bill does not provide the requested \$54,100,000 to finish Phase III of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

The committee must receive any amendments to the bill by Wednesday morning and discussion of the bill and proposed amendments will take place on Thursday.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Agenda:

Process the delete- all amendment to the Omnibus state government, military affairs and veterans affairs appropriations bill. In the Senate bill, the following MDVA initiatives will be funded:

- MAC-V: \$250,000 each year in FY14 and FY15;
- IT Upgrades in Programs and Services: \$618,000 in FY14 and \$382,000 in FY15, of which \$382,000 will be added to the base budget;
- Fillmore County Veterans Cemetery operational funds: \$425,000 in FY15 which is added to the program's base funding;
- Honor Guards receive \$200,000 each year in on-going funding;
- MN GI Bill receives \$200,000 each year to administer the postsecondary education benefits, on-the-job training and the apprenticeship program;
- Gold Star Program is funded at \$100,000 each year as an on-going appropriation;
- County Veterans Service Office program, which combines the Operational and Enhancement Grants into an annual outreach grant, receives \$595,000 that is added to the Department's base;

- IT Upgrades at the Veterans Homes are funded at \$2,472,000 in FY14 and \$1,528,000 in FY15, of which the latter is added to the base.

Also included in the Omnibus bill is language that allows a state or municipal employee who is a member of the National Guard or reserve to choose when during the calendar year to take the 15 days of paid military leave as well as language to establish a 70 bed veterans home in Beltrami County. Also, direction is provided for the creation of a veterans scratch-off lottery game with proceeds credited to the “Support Our Troops” account.

The current statute outlining the perimeters of the Operational Grant is repealed. The bill, as amended, was referred to the Finance Committee.

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Miller introduced:

SF1570: A bill for an act relating to veterans; establishing a veterans home in Fillmore County; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 198.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senators Saxhaug, Dziejic, Cohen and Rest introduced:

SF1589: A bill for an act relating to the operation of state government finance; allowing the secretary of state authority to accept funds from local government units for election systems enhancements and to receive certain funds for the address confidentiality program; allowing the state auditor to charge a onetime user fee for a small city and town accounting system software; changing provisions for bid solicitations and proposals; requiring a report for contracts over \$25,000; changing certain provisions for service contracts and the solicitation process; requiring a determination of the IT cost for agency technology projects; expanding E-Government initiative and establishing the E-Government Advisory Council; changing certain audit provisions from the state auditor to the legislative auditor; repealing the Minnesota Sunset Act; changing provisions for barbering and cosmetology; changing licensing provisions for accountants; changing a paid military leave provision; modifying provisions in the Veterans Service Office grant program; changing provision in the Minnesota GI Bill program; establishing a veterans home in Beltrami County; making Department of Revenue

changes; making compensation council changes and requiring a compensation study; adjusting certain salary groups; establishing administrative penalties; establishing fees; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 3.099, subdivision 1; 3.855, subdivision 3; 13.591, subdivision 3; 15A.0815, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 5; 15A.082, subdivision 2; 16A.82; 16C.02, subdivision 13; 16C.06, subdivision 2; 16C.08, subdivision 4; 16C.09; 16C.10, subdivision 6; 16C.145; 16C.33, subdivision 3; 16C.34, subdivision 1; 16E.07, subdivision 6, by adding a subdivision; 32C.04; 43A.17, subdivisions 1, 3; 65B.84, subdivision 1; 154.001, by adding a subdivision; 154.003; 154.02; 154.05; 154.06; 154.065, subdivision 2; 154.07, subdivision 1; 154.08; 154.09; 154.10, subdivision 1; 154.11, subdivision 1; 154.12; 154.14; 154.15, subdivision 2; 154.26; 155A.23, subdivision 3; 155A.25, subdivisions 1a, 4; 155A.27, subdivisions 4, 7, 10; 155A.29, subdivision 2; 155A.30, subdivision 1, by adding subdivisions; 192.26; 197.608, subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6; 197.791, subdivisions 4, 5; 254A.035, subdivision 2; 254A.04; 256B.093, subdivision 1; 260.835, subdivision 2; 270C.69, subdivision 1; 289A.20, subdivisions 2, 4; 289A.26, subdivision 2a; 295.55, subdivision 4; 297F.09, subdivision 7; 297G.09, subdivision 6; 297I.30, by adding a subdivision; 297I.35, subdivision 2; 326A.04, subdivisions 2, 3, 5, 7; 326A.10; 469.3201; 473.843, subdivision 3; Laws 2012, chapter 278, article 1, section 5; article 2, sections 27; 34; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 4; 5; 5B; 6; 16E; 154; 155A; 198; 297I; 349A; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 3D.01; 3D.02; 3D.03; 3D.04; 3D.045; 3D.05; 3D.06; 3D.065; 3D.07; 3D.08; 3D.09; 3D.10; 3D.11; 3D.12; 3D.13; 3D.14; 3D.15; 3D.16; 3D.17; 3D.18; 3D.19; 3D.20; 3D.21, subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; 43A.17, subdivision 4; 155A.25, subdivision 1; 168A.40, subdivisions 3, 4; 197.608, subdivision 2a; 270C.145; 326A.03, subdivisions 2, 5, 8; Laws 2012, chapter 278, article 1, section 6; Minnesota Rules, parts 1105.0600; 1105.2550; 1105.2700.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda:

HF1184 (A13-0400A) Omnibus State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs Bill. This is the state budget bill that includes funding for MDVA (see Monday's hearing details). An amendment will be offered to HF1184 in

the Ways and Means Committee addressing de-escalation techniques for dealing with veterans in crisis.

The bill was passed and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Goodwin introduced:

SF1592: A bill for an act relating to veterans; providing a veterans jobs tax credit; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 290.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

House Session

HF143: A bill for an act relating to veterans; authorizing placement of a plaque in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds to honor American Indian veterans from this state was read for the third time and placed on final passage. The bill passed, 129 to 0.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

Agenda:

HF270 (Hausman) Omnibus Bonding Bill. Rep. Hausman suggested that during the interim the committee visit all five of the Veterans Homes to get a better idea as to how to proceed with future bonding requests for the Homes. She does not believe that the past bonding appropriations for the Homes have solved the problem. There are still lengthy waiting lists. The bill, as amended, was passed and re-referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Committee: Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

Agenda:

SF1589 (Saxhaug): Omnibus state government, veterans and military affairs appropriations. The bill was passed and will be heard on the Senate floor on Monday, April 15.

Committee: State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Agenda:

SF167 (Franzen): Edina All-Veterans memorial grant bond issue and appropriation. This bill requests \$225,000 from the bond proceeds to design and construct the All-Veterans Memorial in Utley Park in Edina. The funds will not be available until an equal amount has been committed to the project from non-state sources. The City of Edina has contributed \$30,000. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Bonding Bill.

SF651 (Hawj): Minnesota Hmong-Lao veterans commemorative memorial bond issue and appropriation. This bill appropriates \$500,000 from the bond proceeds to complete design and construction of a memorial in the Capitol Area to honor all Hmong-Lao veterans of the secret war in Laos who were allied with the American forces during the Vietnam War. This appropriation must be matched with at least \$150,000 from non-state sources. The memorial would be located next to the Vietnam Memorial. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Senate Omnibus Bonding Bill.

The bill introductions and committee hearing status can be found on the Veteran Bill Tracker spreadsheet under Legislative Updates at <http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/> .