



Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of March 17 - 21, 2014

Monday, March 17

Veterans Day on the Hill Rally

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Capitol Rotunda

The Rally is jointly sponsored by the Commanders' Task Force (CTF), the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSO) and is open to the public. Veterans Day on the Hill is a day when Veterans of all eras in MN unite as one common voice to speak on behalf of the over 370,000 Veterans in the state.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veteran Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:30 PM

Agenda:

HF2117 (Howe): Veteran hearing costs paid by the state.

HF2011 (Dettmer): Veteran-owned small business certification modified for purposes of state procurement, contract bid preference for veteran-owned small businesses required in situations involving capital investment projects.

Committee: Senate Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development

Chair: Sen. Dan Sparks

Room: 112 Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM

Agenda:

SF1784 (Koenen): Veterans Day time off for veterans requirement.

Tuesday, March 18

Committee: Senate Judiciary

Chair: Sen. Ron Latz

Room: 15 Capitol

Time: 12:00 PM

Agenda:

SF1807 (Saxhaug): Former and current military members expedited and temporary licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM

Agenda:

SF2202 (Saxhaug): Minnesota humanities center veterans voices appropriation.

Wednesday, March 19

Committee: House Labor, Workplace, and Regulated Industries

Chair: Rep. Sheldon Johnson, S.

Room: Basement State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda:

HF2447 (Falk): Employers required to provide veterans time off for Veterans Day.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:30 PM

Agenda:

HF2569 (Sawatsky): Adopting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children (pending re-referral)

State Legislative Update for the Week of March 10 - 14, 2014

Monday, March 10, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Hoffman introduced:

SF2522: A bill for an act relating to veterans; veterans housing and long-term care; providing exemptions for certain moratoriums on new residential facilities; providing grants for housing needs assessments for veterans; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 256I.04, subdivision 3; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 245A.03, subdivision 7.

Referred to the Committee on Health, Human Services and Housing

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Persell introduced:

HF2868: A bill for an act relating to education; creating a working group to study compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy.

Clark, Isaacson and Slocum introduced:

HF2878: A bill for an act relating to health; modifying the cancer surveillance system; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 144.671.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Policy.

Hortman and Nelson introduced:

HF2900: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for renovation of the Brooklyn Park Armory; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate Health, Human Services and Housing

Chair: Sen. Kathy Sheran

SF1807 (Saxhaug): Military members expedited licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards. This bill directs state agencies and certain licensing boards to establish procedures to expedite licenses and to issue temporary licenses to qualified active duty military members, the spouses of active duty military members, and veterans who have left service in the prior two years with honorable general discharge status. To qualify for a temporary license, an individual must have a license in another state without history of disciplinary action and must pass a background check. State agencies and boards are authorized to adopt rules. The bill passed, as amended, and was referred to the Committee on Education.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Rep. Mary Murphy

HF2556 (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; new residential facility moratorium exemptions provided, grants provided for veteran housing needs assessments, and money appropriated. The bill allows county agencies to enter into agreements for new group residential housing beds for a group residential housing provided operating a facility of up to 45 beds and who provides services to veterans as a board and lodging facility with supportive services or a licensed chemical dependency treatment program. Money is also appropriated in FY2015 for up to five grants to governmental or nongovernmental organizations to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans in a community. The study must be completed by July 30, 2016. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Policy.

HF2557 (Newton): County veterans service officer duties, commissioner of veterans affairs' federal funding-related duties, and eligibility for veterans homes modified. This

bill:

- mandates county veteran services officers to encourage all veterans to participate in health insurance programs as well as dental insurance and requires that county veterans service officers also assist veterans in acquiring coverage, where necessary;
- clarifies that the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs may request new federal funding only for the purpose of operating, maintaining and making repairs to existing veterans homes. Any request of federal funds that would require a state match requires legislative approval;
- establishes a statutory priority system for admission into veterans homes as follows:
 1. Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, and veterans with a 70 percent or higher service-connected disability rating;
 2. All other veterans;
 3. Priority for both above shall be given to people who established residence in MN for two years immediately prior to admission to the veterans home, or to any veteran who lived in the state at the time they entered the armed forces;
 4. Spouses of veterans who are over the age of 65;
 5. The same residency requirements in 3 apply to spouses; and
 6. Gold Star parents.
- requires the Commissioner to review the long-term care recommendations in a 2007 report and indicate to the legislature which of those recommendations have been complied with, and which have not.
- repeals an advisory council which sunset in 2013.

The bill was laid over.

HF2757 (Newton): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modified. This bill establishes a new method for calculating personal needs allowances for domiciliary residents in veterans homes. For CY15, the allowance must be \$114 or more per month. For CY16, the allowance must be \$122 or more per month. For CY17, the allowance must be \$130 or more per month. For all years after that, the allowance will be recalculated by multiplying the current allowance by one plus one half of the percentage change in the consumer price index. This rate will occur on the first day of each calendar year, and that rate will be the rate for that calendar year. The bill, as amended, was laid over.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

SF1893 (Wiger): North St. Paul military veterans memorial bond issue and appropriation. This bill would appropriate \$100,000 from bond proceeds for a grant to the City of North St. Paul to design and construct a memorial to veterans. The community has raised over

\$80,000 for the project from paver donations. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the bonding bill.

SF2400 (Hoffman, J.): Brooklyn Park armory renovation bond issue and appropriation. This bill would appropriate \$1,244,000 from bonding proceeds to the Adjutant General to renovate, furnish and equip the Brooklyn Park Armory. This language is also included in the Department of Military Affairs bonding request. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the bonding bill.

SF2086 (Westrom): Eagle's healing nest for veterans appropriation. The delete-all amendment would appropriate \$100,000 from MDVA's Support Our Troops fund for a grant to the Eagle's Healing Nest for the purpose of assisting veterans who are reintegrating back into civilian life. It would be a one-time appropriation in FY15. MDVA indicated concern over the source of funding for this program. The bill was laid over for further work and possible inclusion in the supplemental budget.

SF2393 (Housley): Veterans rest camp appropriation. A delete-all amendment would appropriate \$113,000 in FY15 from the parks and trails fund for a grant to the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Association on Big Marine Lake for the camp to connect existing trails and to develop and build a children's recreation area. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the supplemental budget.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senators Housley and Thompson introduced:

SF2590: A bill for an act relating to taxation; income; providing a deduction for military compensation; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Dill introduced:

HF2961: A bill for an act relating to game and fish; modifying disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions; providing for designations on a driver's license and Minnesota identification card; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 97A.441, subdivisions 1, 5; 97B.031, subdivision 5; 97B.055, subdivision 3; 97B.106, subdivision 1; 97B.111, subdivision 1; 171.07, subdivision 15, by adding subdivisions; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 97A.441, subdivisions 6, 6a. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance.

Dettmer introduced:

HF2974: A bill for an act relating to parks and trails; appropriating money for improvements at a veterans rest camp on Big Marine Lake.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy.

Dorholt, Rosenthal, Lien, Newton and Howe introduced:

HF2978: A bill for an act relating to higher education; providing resident tuition status for certain veterans at public postsecondary institutions; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 135A.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy.

Kresha introduced:

HF2987: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Camp Ripley/Veterans State Trail; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Government Operations

Chair: Rep. Michael Nelson

HF2365 (Murphy): License processing for members of the military by state agencies and professional licensing boards required to be expedited, temporary licensure provided for members of the military, and rulemaking authorized. This bill provides for expedited professional license processing and for temporary licenses for active duty military members and their spouses and for veterans who left service in the prior two years. It also authorizes state agencies to adopt rules to carry this out. The bill was passed, as amended, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

HF2812 (Newton): Veterans' Voices Month created. This bill would designate the month of October as Veterans' Voices Month. Schools, organizations and communities would be encouraged to hold events and programs that honor veterans and educate students and citizens about the unique culture of the military by sharing and studying veterans' experiences through stories, essays, poetry and art from the men and women who have served in the armed forces. The bill was recommended to pass and placed on the General Register.

Committee: House Transportation Policy

Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt

HF2092 (Brynaert): Combat wounded veterans special motorcycle plates authorized. This bill establishes a special combat wounded veteran motorcycle plate. Under current law, the special plate for combat wounded veterans is limited to owners of passenger automobiles, one-ton pickup trucks used for noncommercial purposes, and recreational

vehicles, who have received a Purple Heart medal. The bill passed and was placed on the General Register.

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Fischbach introduced:

SF2649: A bill for an act relating to public safety; motor vehicles; authorizing an "Operation Just Cause" special veterans license plate; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 168.123, subdivision 1; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 168.123, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Public Safety.

Senators Bakk and Hoffman introduced:

SF2663: A bill for an act relating to game and fish; modifying disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions; providing for designations on a driver's license and Minnesota identification card; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 97A.441, subdivisions 1, 5; 97B.031, subdivision 5; 97B.055, subdivision 3; 97B.106, subdivision 1; 97B.111, subdivision 1; 171.07, subdivision 15, by adding subdivisions; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 97A.441, subdivisions 6, 6a.

Referred to the Committee on Environment and Energy.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

O'Driscoll and Howe introduced:

HF3039: A bill for an act relating to public safety; motor vehicles; authorizing an "Operation Just Cause" special veterans license plate; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 168.123, subdivision 1; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 168.123, subdivision 2.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy.

HF2665: A bill for an act relating to the military; removing obsolete, redundant, and unnecessary laws related to military affairs was read for the third time and placed on its final passage. The passed unanimously, 129-0.

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate Education

Chair: Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

SF1807 (Saxhaug): Former and current military members expedited and temporary licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Friday, March 14, 2014

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Health and Human Services Policy

Chair: Rep. Tina Liebling

HF2878 (Clark) Cancer surveillance system modified. This bill requires the commissioner of health to include data in the cancer surveillance system on all previous occupations, dates, and places of work, and time and place of any military service of a cancer patient.

Committee: House Government Operations

Chair: Rep. Michael Nelson

HF2569 (Sawatzky): Educational opportunity for military children interstate compact adopted, and military-connected youth identifier required.