



Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of April 7 - 11, 2014

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM

Agenda:

SF2951 (Saxhaug): Military and veterans affairs capital renovation and repair projects bond issue and appropriation.

State Legislative Update for the Week of March 31 – April 4, 2014

Friday, March 28, 2014

Senate Session

HF2665, a bill for an act relating to the military; removing obsolete, redundant and unnecessary laws related to military affairs was placed on Special Orders. It passed on a vote of 54-0.

Monday, March 31, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Gazelka introduced:

SF2930: 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. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was adopted allowing for an adjournment of more than three days. The Senate concurred. Upon their adjournments on Thursday, April 10, 2014 the House of Representatives and the Senate may each set its next day of meeting for Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

HF2490 (Hausman): Omnibus capital investment bill. An author's delete-all amendment was passed and mark-up of the bill will take place on Wednesday.

From the over \$912,488,000 House bonding bill, the MN Department of Veterans Affairs would receive a total of \$3,423,000, designated as follows:

- \$408,000 for asset preservation at veterans affairs facilities statewide;
- \$730,000 to complete the design and perform repairs to the deep tunnel on the Minneapolis Veterans Home campus;
- \$1,840,000 to design and improve resident rooms and renovation of the nursing station in the Luverne Veterans Home and to complete the design and renovation of resident bathrooms in the Silver Bay Veterans Home;
- \$120,000 to construct a new storage building in Luverne;
- \$225,000 grant to Edina to design and construct the All Veterans Memorial; and,
- \$100,000 grant to the city of North St. Paul to design and construct a memorial to those who have served or are presently serving in the military of the USA and those who have died while in the line of duty.

Also of note is \$450,000 to complete design and construction of a memorial in the Capitol Area to honor all Hmong-Lao veterans of the war in Laos who were allied with the American forces during the Vietnam War. The appropriation is not available until at least \$100,000 has been committed to the project from nonstate sources.

The Department of Military Affairs received \$3,244,000 of which \$2,000,000 was for asset preservation for military affairs facilities statewide, and \$1,244,000 to renovate existing space, furnish and equip the Brooklyn Park Armory.

HF1068 (Hausman) is the vehicle for the general fund capital investment bill. Of Veterans interest in the delete-all amendment is:

- \$250,000 for up to five grants to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans in a community, which need to be completed no later than July 30, 2016; and,
- \$1,900,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society for a grant to Minneapolis to restore the historic steel and limestone pillar fence along Cedar Ave. and Lake St.

and install a new steel fence and pillars along 21st Ave. S at the Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery.

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

HF3167 (Lenczewski): Omnibus supplemental tax bill. Of Veterans interest is language that:

- extends the time period for the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran to continue to receive the disabled veteran's property tax benefit from five years to eight years. This section provides the same extension for surviving spouses of military personnel who are killed in action.
- extends the existing military pay subtraction to National Guard members in Active Guard/Reserve status and individuals in active status under the state adjutant general, effective for tax year 2014 and following years.

Passed and placed on the Calendar for the Day, Friday, April 4, 2014.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

HF68 (Dettmer): Honor and Remember Flag (information and limited testimony)

This bill designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the symbol for the state's concern and commitment to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty as members of the armed forces. Suggests days for displaying the flag, leaving the decision to the chief administrator of each governmental building or facility. Does not allow an employee to be required to report to work solely to display the flag. Provides that any public office or public official may accept a donation of one or more Honor and Remember Flags to carry out the purposes of this section. The Commanders' Task Force is opposed to this legislation.

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

HF2365 (Murphy): Professional licensing boards required to expedite license processing for members of the military, temporary licensure provided for military members, and rulemaking authorized. The bill, as amended, was passed and placed on the General Register.

Committee: House Taxes

Chair: Rep. Ann Lenczewski

HF2852 (Dill): Omnibus game and fish bill. The sections of veterans interest state that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free angling license, free deer hunting license and/or a free small game license available to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans. The bill requires the Department of Transportation to issue/renew, upon request, driver's licenses or ID cards with a new 100 percent disabled veteran designation provided satisfactory evidence is provided. The applicant must be a veteran, have a certified copy of the veteran's discharge papers, and provide satisfactory evidence of a 100 percent total and permanent service-connected disability as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

HF2490 (Hausman): Omnibus capital investment bill. The bill, as amended, passed and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

HF1068 (Hausman): General fund capital investment bill. The bill, as amended, passed and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

Senators Saxhaug, Stumpf, Dziejic and Franzen introduced:

SF2951: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for military affairs and veterans affairs capital projects; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

Anzelc introduced:

HF3334: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for military affairs and veterans affairs capital projects; 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.

HF3172, the Supplemental Budget bill, was passed as amended, on a vote of 70 to 59. Sections pertaining to Veterans are: \$50,000 in FY15 for the training of state and local community safety personnel in the use of crisis de-escalation techniques for use with Minnesota Veterans following their return from active military service in a combat zone; woman Veteran license plates; provides training rebates to employers in the non-metro area up to \$4,000 per employee who are veterans, disabled or long term unemployed; and allows the commissioner to enter directly into an agreement with a provider serving

veterans eligible for GRH who live in a GRH-eligible setting located in Stearns County and which can be terminated by either the commissioner or the provider with two months prior notice.

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

SF2785 (Cohen): Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. Within the State Departments and Veterans appropriations are \$125,000 to the Humanities Commission for the Veterans' Voices program to educate and engage the community regarding veterans' contributions, knowledge, skills and experiences; one-time funding in FY15 to various boards to pay for the military member expedited licensing provision; \$250,000 for up to five grants of up to \$50,000 each to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans; and \$150,000, with tails, to implement the veteran-owned small business preference. Hearings continue on various articles.

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

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, as amended, was passed and placed on the General Register.

HF2757 (Newton): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modified, and annual adjustments provided. The bill passed and was placed on the General Register.

Friday, April 4, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None