



State Legislative Update for the Week of May 12 - 16, 2014

Friday, May 9, 2014

The Governor signed into law, **HF1916**, a bill authorizing special license plates for women veterans.

Monday, May 12, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The Conference Committee Report on **HF2092**, a bill authorizing a veteran's special motorcycle plate for combat wounded veterans, which was amended to include firefighters special plates, was read for the third time and placed on final passage. The bill passed, 63-3.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The Conference Committee Report on **HF2092**, a bill authorizing a veteran's special motorcycle plate for combat wounded veterans, as amended by the Conference Committee Report, was placed upon its repassage. The bill passed, 129-0.

The Conference Committee Report on **HF2852**, the Omnibus Game and Fish bill, was read for the third time, as amended by the Conference Committee, and placed upon its repassage. The bill passed, 129-1.

Thursday, May 15, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The Conference Committee Report on **HF2852**, the Omnibus Game and Fish bill, was read the third time and placed on its repassage. The bill passed, 62-0.

Of veterans interest are the provisions that state a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for free angling licenses, deer hunting licenses and small game licenses available to certain disabled veterans.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2490, the Omnibus Capital Investment bill passed, as amended, 92-40. This will have a general obligation bonding impact of \$846,000,000.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will receive \$2,800,000 in bonding proceeds and the Department of Military Affairs will receive \$3,244,000. The Camp Ripley/Veterans Trail receives \$1,732,000 and the Minnesota Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial will receive \$450,000 once at least \$90,000 has been committed to the project from nonstate sources.

Of the total funds designated to MDVA:

- \$2,000,000 is for asset preservation at the veterans homes in Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne and Silver Bay, and up to \$70,000 for the Little Falls veterans cemetery;
- \$700,000 is to complete the design and perform repairs to the deep tunnel on the Minneapolis Veterans Homes campus; and,
- \$100,000 is for a grant to North St. Paul to design and construct a memorial to those who have served or are presently in the military and those who have died while in the line of duty.

HF1068, the General Fund Capital Investment bill passed, as amended, on a vote of 82-50. This bill spends \$198,700,000 from the state's budget surplus for additional infrastructure projects.

Through MDVA, \$225,000 is designated for a grant to Edina to design and construct the All Veterans Memorial once at least an equal amount has been committed to the project from nonstate sources.

Conference Committee

HF3167, Omnibus Supplemental Tax Bill.

Chairs: Sen. Rod Skoe and Rep. Ann Lenczewski

The provisions that are included in the Tax Conference Committee Report of veterans interest are: the extension of 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 to eight years, and the extension of the existing military pay subtraction to National Guard members in Active Guard/Reserve and individuals in active status under the state adjutant general.

Friday, May 16, 2014

The Governor signed into law, **HF2092**, a bill authorizing a veteran's special motorcycle plate for combat wounded veterans.

The Governor signed into law, **HF1915**, a bill that provides for military experience peace officer exam reciprocity.

The Governor signed into law, **HF2812**, a bill designating the month of October as Veterans' Voices Month in the State of Minnesota.

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2490, the Omnibus Capital Investment bill, passed 47-17.

HF1068, The General Fund Capital Investment bill, passed 44-19.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2447, a bill requiring employers to provide veterans with time off for Veterans Day, passed on a vote of 111-17.

The Conference Committee Report on **HF3167**, the Omnibus Supplemental Tax Bill, was placed upon its final repassage. The bill passed, 131-0.