



Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of January 30 – February 3, 2012

Monday, January 30, 2012

Committee: House Veterans Services Division

Time: 12:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Room: Basement, State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Bruce Anderson

Agenda:

HF1821 (Dettmer): Small business set-aside program changed for veteran-owned small businesses, county set-aside programs authorized for veteran-owned small businesses, and reporting requirements changed.

HF1903 (Urdahl): Honor guard stipends preference modified.

HF1819 (Dettmer): Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program modified.

HF1519 (Anderson): Veteran license plate collection preserved, and distribution and sale of remaining discontinued veterans plates directed and use of revenue authorized.

HF1416 (Gruenhagen): Military affairs; nonpublic employees reemployment rights protections extended.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Committee: Senate State Government Innovations and Veterans

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Room: 123 Capitol

Chair: Senator Mike Parry

Agenda:

The specific agenda is not available at this time, but MDVA has been notified that issues of Veterans interest will be discussed.

State Legislative Week in Review
Week of January 23 – 27, 2012

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Both the Minnesota House and Senate convened at noon for the 2012 Regular Session.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

Davids introduced:

H F 1762: A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money for a veterans and emergency services museum in the city of Rochester.

The bill was referred to the Legacy Funding Division.

Davids introduced:

H F 1763: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for a Minnesota veterans and emergency services museum in the city of Rochester; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

The bill was referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

Dettmer; Anderson, B.; Vogel; Drazkowski and Wardlow introduced:

H F 1818: A bill for an act relating to veterans; family law; allowing recovery of a portion of the marriage license fee for members of the armed forces who complete premarital education after the license is issued; amending Minnesota Statutes 2011 Supplement, section 517.08, subdivision 1b.

The bill was referred to the Veterans Services Division.

Dettmer; McElpatrick; Westrom; Anderson, B.; Lohmer; Vogel; Wardlow and Drazkowski introduced:

H F 1819: A bill for an act relating to the military; beyond the yellow ribbon program; civil immunity; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 192.

The bill was referred to the Veterans Services Division.

Dettmer; Crawford; Westrom; Anderson, B.; Vogel and Wardlow introduced:

H F 1820: A bill for an act relating to taxation; income; military service credit; eliminating income-based reduction; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 290.0677, subdivision 1a.

The bill was referred to the Veterans Services Division.

Dettmer; Westrom; Anderson, B.; Vogel and Wardlow introduced:

H F 1821: A bill for an act relating to veterans; changing the small business set-aside program for veteran-owned small businesses; authorizing county set-aside programs for veteran-owned small businesses; changing reporting requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 161.321, subdivisions 2, 5, 8, by adding subdivisions; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 375.

The bill was referred to the Veterans Services Division.

Urdahl introduced:

H F 1903: A bill for an act relating to veterans; honor guard stipends; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 197.231.

The bill was referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

Clark introduced:

H F1910: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery restoration; 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.

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

Senators Hayden and Dibble introduced:

SF1496: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery restoration; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Committee Hearings

House Civil Law

HF56 (Dill): Veteran waiver of immunity provided to sue the state of Minnesota as an employer in federal or other courts for violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits a state from being sued in federal court, unless the state has explicitly consented to the suit (or certain other exceptions apply). In the context of this bill, the immunity granted to the state of Minnesota under the Eleventh Amendment has meant that in some circumstances service members and veterans who are state employees are unable to exercise employment law rights that are granted by federal law, because cases alleging violations of federal law must be brought in federal court.

This bill provides that the state consents to suit in federal court - it waives its Eleventh Amendment immunity - for claims arising out of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

USERRA is a major federal law designed to protect service members' reemployment rights when returning from a period of service in the uniformed services, including persons called up from the reserves or National Guard; it also prohibits employer discrimination based on military service or obligation.

House rules dictate that at the start of the second year of the biennium, bills must progress from the committee where they were last heard. HF 56 was previously approved by the Civil Law Committee so no new testimony was taken. An oral amendment to change the date was accepted, and the bill was recommended to pass and referred to the General Registry.

Senate Session

Both bodies passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 relating to adjournment for more than three days, stating that:

Upon the adjournment of the Senate on Thursday, February 2, 2012, and upon adjournment of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, the Senate and House of Representatives may each adjourn for

more than three days and set the next day of meeting for Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Both the House and Senate will adjourn for precinct caucuses.

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

Urdahl; Anderson, B., and Dettmer introduced:

H F1948: A bill for an act relating to the military; providing an exemption of the motor vehicle sales tax on a portion of the value of a motor vehicle purchased abroad during military service outside the United States; amending Minnesota Statutes 2011 Supplement, section 297B.03.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Services Division.

McElfattrick, Lohmer, Fabian, Kiel and Franson introduced:

H F1982: A bill for an act relating to higher education; establishing an educational program for veterans and their spouses and certain dependents; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 135A.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Services Division.