

June 2007

TITLE 37

Military

Summary of Bills Enacted by 2007 Legislative Assembly

This memorandum summarizes 2007 legislation primarily affecting North Dakota Century Code Title 37. Bills primarily affecting other titles also affect this title, and relevant provisions of those bills are summarized in this memorandum.

Senate Bill No. 2115 allows the Governor to order into active service the National Guard to perform training activities. The bill allows National Guard tuition grants to any accredited postsecondary institution, instead of as previously allowed to any private or nonprofit college or university granting a baccalaureate degree, if the institution agrees to waive 25 percent of the tuition, instead of as previously allowed the difference between the tuition grant and the tuition charged. The bill provides adjusted compensation to members of the North Dakota National Guard and North Dakota residents of the Reserve and extends payment until June 30, 2009.

Senate Bill No. 2142 allows up to \$5,000 to be the total amount of loans from the veterans' aid fund instead of one loan.

Senate Bill No. 2353 clarifies the veterans' preference in employment and requires back pay for the time an individual was entitled to employment to the time the individual was employed as a result of a preference hearing.

House Bill No. 1425 removes the requirement the general fund appropriations to the Veterans Home may be expended only when federal or other funds are not available and upon approval of the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

House Bill No. 1291 increases the death benefit for a veteran who died in active service from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Senate Bill No. 2137 includes as one of the purposes of the North Dakota Disaster Act to reduce loss of life and property resulting from threats to homeland security and provide for a statewide emergency management system incorporating the principles of the National Incident Management System and its incident command system as well as other applicable federal mandates. The bill requires the Division of Homeland Security to provide technical assistance for the development and revision of local disaster or emergency operations plans. The bill requires the Division of Homeland Security, in coordination with lead and support agencies, to train on skills important to prevention, to enter agreements with the federal government, and to allow search for and rescue of a person whether or not there has been a violation of criminal law. The bill removes the requirement for the Division and Homeland Security to publish and keep a list of cities desiring to have an emergency management organization of their own and requires a city and county to coordinate city and county emergency plans if a city provides an emergency management organization of its own. The bill clarifies the prevention role of the Department of Homeland Security and provides technical corrections and definitions. The bill allows the governing body of any county with a tax levy for emergency purposes to use the emergency fund to match federal funds appropriated to mitigate damage to roads related to a federally declared disaster that occurred more than 60 days preceding the determination to expend emergency funds.