

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments  
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1316**

Introduced by

Representatives Owens, Brandenburg, DeKrey

Senator Schaible

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-14-12 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the appeal of an application for relief or assistance provided under a department of  
3 veterans' affairs program.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **37-14-12. Decision of department appealable.**

8 The department of veterans' affairs may grant or refuse an application for relief or  
9 assistance from financial assistance programs under the control of the department under  
10 policies set by the administrative committee on veterans' affairs. The committee shall adopt and  
11 establish an appeal process. The department's decisions are appealable to an appeals  
12 committee appointed by the chairman of the administrative committee, ~~and the decision of the~~  
13 ~~committee is final.~~ A hearing before the appeals committee may be closed upon request of the  
14 applicant. An applicant who requests a closed hearing may invite to that hearing any two  
15 representatives and the applicant's spouse or one other family member. Each decision of the  
16 appeals committee must give the reasons for granting or refusing an application for relief or  
17 assistance. The decision of the appeals committee is final. The record of the hearing, including  
18 the identity of the applicant, is an exempt record.