

SENATE BILL NO. 2344

Introduced by

Senators Dever, Cook, Nelson

Representatives Amerman, Carlisle, M. Klein

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 37-14 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the definition of veteran; and to amend and reenact sections
3 37-14-03.3, 37-14-04, 37-14-06, and 37-14-14 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
4 references to veterans.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 37-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Definition of veteran.** As used in this chapter, "veteran" means an individual who
9 served in the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty for reasons other than
10 training and who has been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **37-14-03.3. Revolving fund.** The sum of seven hundred thousand dollars is a
14 permanent revolving fund of the veterans' aid fund and may not revert to the general fund and
15 must be used solely for the purpose of making loans to any veteran ~~as defined by section~~
16 ~~37-01-40~~ and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried. This section
17 does not prohibit the department of veterans' affairs, in its discretion, from using any accrued
18 ~~interest the fund accrues or has already earned or accrued~~ to collect loans if in the opinion of
19 the department a person has the financial means to repay; and that person deliberately refuses
20 to ~~do so~~ repay.

21 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **37-14-04. Veterans' aid fund - Purpose.** The purpose of the veterans' aid fund is to
24 make loans or advancements to any veteran ~~as defined by section 37-01-40~~ and to a surviving

1 spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried. A qualified applicant may be permitted to
2 ~~make~~ receive more than one loan providing the applicant has satisfied payment requirements of
3 a previous loan.

4 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-14-06. Department may provide aid.** If the department of veterans' affairs is
7 satisfied that an applicant is a veteran, ~~as defined by section 37-01-40,~~ or the surviving spouse
8 of a veteran and has not remarried, and that the applicant is a citizen and resident of this state,
9 the department may loan to the applicant, or a guardian of the applicant, a sum from the
10 veterans' aid fund not to exceed five thousand dollars.

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

13 **37-14-14. Veterans' postwar trust fund.** The veterans' postwar trust fund ~~shall be~~ is
14 a permanent trust fund of the state of North Dakota and ~~shall consist~~ consists of moneys
15 transferred or credited to the fund, pursuant to ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter and ~~of~~ other laws.
16 Investment of the fund ~~shall be~~ is the responsibility of the state treasurer who shall ~~have full~~
17 ~~authority to~~ invest the fund only in those legal investments authorized by section 21-10-07. All
18 income received from investments is to be utilized only for programs of benefit and service to
19 veterans ~~as defined in section 37-01-40,~~ or their dependents, and ~~such~~ all income is ~~hereby~~
20 appropriated to the administrative committee on veterans' affairs on a continuing basis for
21 expenditure ~~upon such~~ on these programs as authorized by law.