

**SENATE BILL NO. 2218**

Introduced by

Senators Syverson, Dever, G. Lee

Representatives Belter, Bernstein, S. Kelsh

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to funding and veterans' records; to amend and reenact sections  
3 37-14-18 and 37-18-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to supervision of county  
4 veterans' service officers and duties of the commissioner of veterans' affairs; and to provide a  
5 continuing appropriation.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **37-14-18. County veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.** The board of  
10 county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota may appoint, employ, and  
11 pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a county veterans' service  
12 officer. Such appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of veterans'  
13 affairs, and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section 37-19.1-02. It is the  
14 duty of such county veterans' service officer to become acquainted with the laws, both state  
15 and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning servicemen and servicewomen to assist such  
16 returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and establishment of such  
17 claims, privileges, and rights as they have. It also is the duty of the county veterans' service  
18 officer, ~~under the supervision of the state commissioner of veterans' affairs,~~ to actively  
19 cooperate with and to coordinate the activities of the state and federal agencies within the  
20 county which the officer serves to facilitate their operation and ensure promptness in the  
21 solution of the problems concerned with the reestablishment of returning servicemen and  
22 servicewomen in civilian pursuits.

23 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 created and enacted as follows:

1           **Funding authority - Continuing appropriation.** The department of veterans' affairs  
2 may accept and expend funds from any source, including federal or private sources, to be used  
3 to assist veterans or qualified veterans' spouses in obtaining assistance and to pay other  
4 expenses authorized by law incurred in carrying out programs of benefit and service for resident  
5 North Dakota veterans as authorized by the administrative committee on veterans' affairs with  
6 the approval of the emergency commission. However, all interest earnings from the veterans'  
7 postwar trust fund received by the department of veterans' affairs from the administrative  
8 committee on veterans' affairs are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis.

9           **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 created and enacted as follows:

11           **Records.** The department of veterans' affairs may receive from the United States such  
12 records of veterans as the United States may wish to turn over to the department of veterans'  
13 affairs and same shall keep and maintain the records as provided in this chapter.

14           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-18-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16           **37-18-04. Duties of commissioner.** It is the duty of the commissioner to coordinate  
17 agencies or instrumentalities of the state set up to render service and benefits to returning  
18 veterans; to have charge of and implement programs and benefits authorized by statute; to  
19 assist or represent veterans or their widows, administrators, executors, guardians, or heirs, in  
20 processing claims; to advise and assist veterans in taking advantage of the provisions of the  
21 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 [Pub. L. 78-346; 58 Stat. 291], or any similar or related  
22 measures afforded by the federal government; to ~~assist, supervise, advise, and direct the work~~  
23 ~~of county service officers~~ provide counties with recommended qualifications and standards for  
24 county veterans' service officers; to assist counties with training of county veterans' service  
25 officers; to provide county veterans' service officers with educational materials; to assist county  
26 veterans' service officers in the formation of county service to veterans' committees and to  
27 ~~outline, assist, and direct the activities of such committees~~ performance of their duties; to  
28 disseminate information; and to do any and all things necessary and proper for the purpose of  
29 carrying out the intent and purposes of this chapter.

30           ~~The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend funds from any source,~~  
31 ~~including federal or private sources and interest earnings from the veterans' postwar trust fund,~~

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1 ~~to be used to assist veterans or qualified veterans' spouses in obtaining assistance and to pay~~  
2 ~~other expenses authorized by law, incurred pursuant to hearings covered in section 37-19.1-04~~  
3 ~~or incurred in carrying out programs of benefit and service for resident North Dakota veterans~~  
4 ~~as authorized by the administrative committee on veterans' affairs with the approval of the~~  
5 ~~emergency commission.~~

6       ~~The department of veterans' affairs may receive from the United States government~~  
7 ~~such records of veterans as the United States government may wish to turn over to the~~  
8 ~~department of veterans' affairs and same shall keep and maintain such records as hereafter~~  
9 ~~provided by this chapter.~~