

House Industry, Business & Labor Committee
68th Legislative Session
Representative Scott Louser-Chair

Chairman Louser and House Industry, Business & Labor Committee,
Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1142.

Intent of this bill...

Allow local post/chapter Veteran Service Organizations charitable gaming income to be donated to and used for operation of State Veteran Service Organization Department administrative and operational expenses and programs

Need for bill...

- ND State Veteran Service Organizations utilize a portion of their membership fees and other “non-charitable gaming” fund raising efforts to support and pay Veteran Service Officers who connect ND Veterans and their dependents to VA benefits
- Charitable gaming funds from any organization can be donated to non-profit organizations for use on their programs and operation.
- Charitable gaming funds **cannot** be utilized for its own charitable organization’s operation and administration. (Outside of the cost of running the gaming operation).
- State Veteran Service Organizations are normally NOT the same FEIN or non-profit as the individual local posts.
- ND Office of the Attorney General has stated “Nowhere in the Century Code is payment to a “State Office” or for any other post expenses be allowed.”
- NDCC 53-06.1-11.1(2)(d)(11) states...
 - ...uses: Funds to relieve, improve, and advance the physical and mental conditions, care and medical treatment, and health and welfare of injured or disabled veterans.
 - This is one of my main objectives in this bill. Allow these funds to support their Veteran Service Officer.
- American Legion, DAV, VFW have Full time Veteran Service Officers who assist ND Veterans and their dependents in gaining access to VA health care and benefits along with ND Department of Veterans Affairs and County & Tribal VSO’s.
 - 2020 & 2021 VA expenditures in ND:
 - Total: \$1,067,191,000
 - Medical: \$529,000,000
 - Comp & Pen: \$474,000,000
 - Education: \$45,700,000
- This bill will simply allow the Veteran Service Organizations to continue to serve ND Veterans and their Dependents.

Fiscal Note: None

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA