

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee.

In front of you is **House Bill 1142** which, if passed, would **expand eligible uses** for charitable gaming net proceeds.

The intent is to allow gaming revenue generated at the local VSO posts (Veteran Service Organizations) to be donated to any VSO at the State level.

The donations can be used to help pay office supplies, utilities, travel and compensation of employees which are currently covered by membership dues.

The problem is membership funds are declining because of the rapid loss of members...mostly because of old age and death.

The State department VSOs assists and supports many veteran and family member services, programs, and events.

It also includes helping veterans gain access to VA benefits and services.

There is no cost to the state general fund or any other fiscal note.

For our veterans, I would encourage a **DO PASS** on **House Bill 1142**.

And I would also respectfully request an **Emergency Clause** to this bill to get the financial help to veterans as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members.