

HB 1142

Veterans service organizations like the AMVETS, American Legion, VFW and The Vietnam Veterans of the America are losing members at an average of 1000 members per year. As in an example the Bismarck AMVETS post is lost nearly have of its membership since 20217. The Bottineau Post since 2019 has went from 110 members to just 55 last year. The Various Departments that oversee these posts depend on the membership dues they receive. There are two types of members in all these organizations, life and annual. The departments receive a portion of these dues to run and support the various missions we support or sponsor. These dues are split between our National Office, our various State Departments and finally our posts. In the AMVETS If a person joins as a Life member currently our life membership is \$250. \$125 goes to National, \$ 62 goes to the Department and \$63 goes to the post. Our annual membership is \$35 yearly and the break down is \$14 to National \$15 to the Department and \$6 to the post. By

looking at these numbers you can see that the Departments have lost a considerable amount of income over the past few years. Departments are not allowed to conduct gaming As a result of this our income is garnered from a yearly raffle that is run through the host post hosting our yearly convention, our share of the membership dues, and donations from our posts with gaming. These last monies are restricted in how they must be spent. It is becoming harder and harder to maintain our missions and other expenses. What we are asking for is just to be made eligible, to use a portion of those monies that we receive from donations from our posts to use for administering our various missions.