



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

HB 1135
2.21.25
Senate Ag and Veteran Affairs

Good morning, Chair Luick and members of Ag and Veteran Affairs,

I stand before you today to introduce HB 1135 for your consideration. This bill proposes an important update to the authority of the veteran's loan fund, increasing the maximum loan amount to \$8,000.

For context, this fund serves as a revolving loan program, providing financial assistance to veterans, surviving spouses who have not remarried. The key feature of this revolving fund is that once the loan is repaid, it can be loaned out again, helping to provide continuous support to those who have served our country.

Included in the testimony I've provided is some background on the history of the fund, as well as the maximum loan amount we've seen over the years. It's important to note that the current authorization has remained unchanged for 24 years. Over that time, inflation and rising costs have reduced the purchasing power of these loans.

Given this long period without adjustment, I believe it is both reasonable and necessary to make a small increase in this loan authorization. This modest adjustment will help ensure that the fund continues to provide meaningful assistance to our veterans and their families.

History of loan amount increases.

- **1943 Established Veterans Aid Commission and \$75,000 Fund. \$300 Loan. (HB 94)**
- **1947 Amend loan to \$500**
- **1981 increased from \$500 to \$2,000. (34 years)**
- **2001 increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000. (24 years)**

I believe the Veterans Commissioner is here to answer any questions regarding further details of the revolving loan fund itself.

This isn't a cost to taxpayers, but a loan fund to help our North Dakotans who have served our country, now in their time of need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working with you all to support this important measure.

Brandy L. Pyle