

# North Dakota Senate

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## Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9  
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## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

## HB 1169

Chairman Luick members of the Senate Agriculture/Veterans Affairs committee my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9.

HB 1169 relating to compensation for Veteran's Benefits and to provide a penalty.

As a Tribal Veteran Service Officer for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians since 2016 I have worked with several Veterans, Spouse, and Dependents to protect their privacy and freedom of information.

Following is our Veteran Service Officer Mission & Job Description:

### MISSION STATEMENT FOR VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (VSO's)

To provide quality advocacy for all US Veterans, Armed Forces members, their spouses & dependents, survivors through benefit counseling and programs, claims and outreach services.

To reach out to all Veterans Organizations, and veterans through traditional public relations, community involvement, and by initiation and implementation of activities that encourage them to access their rightfully earned entitlements and benefits.

To respond to the needs of all Veterans, armed forces members, their dependents and survivors, and to provide linkage for them to other support services.

### JOB DESCRIPTION:

1. Advises and assists veterans or their beneficiaries in present claims for benefits under Federal, State or local laws.
2. Works in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, other government agencies, the Veterans of the Vietnam War; Inc.
3. Conducts telephone communications and/or written correspondence with various Federal, State, County, Tribal Governmental Agencies concerning problems or questions on behalf of veterans or their beneficiaries.

4. Submits Department of Veterans Affairs claims to appropriate Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office. Other claims are submitted to the government agencies involved.
5. Have a complete working knowledge of Department of Veterans requirements concerning the processing of claims for all types of veterans benefits. Must be able to develop knowledge, where required to process claims for other government benefits.
  - Compensation
  - Pension
  - Special Service Connected Benefits
  - Medical
  - Education
  - Life Insurance
  - Death Benefits
  - GI Loans
  - Records
6. Have a complete working knowledge of other agencies veterans benefits. VSO must be able to develop knowledge to process claims withing the following areas: (Social Security, Veteran State Loans, County Assessor tax exemptions, Job Disability, employment development department, Small Business Administration.
7. Must be familiar with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts, and Department of Veterans regulations concerning the release of claims information.
8. Quality
9. Timeliness
10. Confidentiality
11. Public Contact

VSO's are required to attend training twice a year to keep up their certification requirements.

All of the these services are free to the veteran.