

2011 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

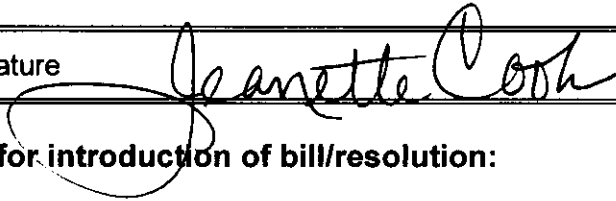
HB 1197

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1197
01/20/2011
Job # 13155

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

This is a bill relating to a veteran indicator on an operator's license.

Minutes:

Attachment #1

Representative Lisa Meier, District 32, introduced HB 1197. The bill will place an indicator on a driver's license so that veterans have an indicator on the license showing that they are a veteran. The process in second part of the bill will be done in the veteran's service center.

Representative Weisz: Have you talked to the Department of Transportation if there is an issue with having a spot to put this on a license?

Representative Lisa Meier: I did talk with the Department of Transportation. The commissioner and the Department of Transportation have been in contact to work that out.

Chairman Ruby: Would this be another box on a license that is checked or what will it look like?

Representative Lisa Meier: I believe the intent is to be an actual indicator on the face of the driver's license. It is being done in other states.

Representative Delmore: Do these indicators already exist and will they pass through homeland security?

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for North Dakota, provided prepared testimony explaining HB 1197. See attached testimony #1.

Representative Onstad: In line 7 it makes a reference to the director. Is that the Director of Veteran's Affairs, Director of Department of Transportation, or who is it making reference to?

Lonnie Wangen: That is making reference to the Department of Transportation. They will place a marker of some sort on the license, possibly a "V" or an American flag, that will show they are a veteran. We would advertise that for them.

Representative Onstad: They will need to get a new driver's license with this on it?

Lonnie Wangen: Yes, when they go to renew their license, they will need to provide a form signed by a county service officer to get the symbol on their license.

Representative Delmore: Do these indicators already exist and will they pass through homeland security? What do they look like?

Lonnie Wangen: We discussed a simple V marker with the DMV somewhere in the stripe on a driver's license. When it is swiped, it will come up showing that that person is a veteran. Other states have done it, and it has helped them in many different ways. If homeland security were to swipe this, they would probably get moved to the head of the line. It would be a good thing.

Representative Delmore: Wouldn't it be easier to provide the ID cards to these people? Maybe it would be timelier for them to get into your office, than going to Department of Transportation? I understand what you are trying to do and think it is a good thing, but if you issued an ID card, you would see these people. I don't see the Department of Transportation in their role of giving a license out, as being the person to suggest that they go to your office to visit.

Lonnie Wangen: There are no military organizations that will issue military ID cards simply for being a veteran at this time. You have to be either retired or disabled to get a VA card. We plan on using this as part of our support for veterans. There are a lot of merchants that offer good discounts out there. We would also like to do public service announcements thanking them for their service. Any tool that we can use to get them to come in and visit with us, it is helpful to us.

Representative Hogan: I am well aware of the staffing issues for veteran's service officers, especially in the large counties. Do you think that they have the capacity to take on one more duty and would this require any additional staff?

Lonnie Wangen: I don't believe so. The idea is to get the full time service members into the office, and we can get them into the programs and get them the help that they need. A service officer can look at the DD-14 and verify veteran's status quite quickly. The idea is to make that connection. We want to get full time service members in there, who don't have the support groups, the reintegration programs, or are not aware of them, so that they can become aware of them. PPSD is a big problem, and in North Dakota alone since 2006 we have lost 75 veterans to suicide.

Representative Hogan: So, your goal is really outreach to veterans to get them into services? You don't really have any sense of what the impact would be on the direct service line?

Lonnie Wangen: I visited with some of the state directors about this. They said it has had a very positive impact. They have gotten people that they didn't know were veterans that had real issues to deal with. It has helped veterans.

Chairman Ruby: Is the main issue to get some veterans some sort of identification because they aren't retired or disabled?

Lonnie Wangen: Yes, that is correct.

Chairman Ruby: Would this indicator be available to all involved? The idea is to get them to come into the office, so they can get approval for the indicator. So, they will already be coming into the office. Other than the promotional discounts for the driver's license, I don't understand how that is going to get more people into the office, when they already have to come in to get the approval to the indicator. If they know about your office to do that, they must know about your office to get services.

Lonnie Wangen: There are a lot of veterans that are not aware of county veteran services officers out there. That there are human services that can help them, and that there are veterans organizations in their community and a lot of support for them. That is why we want to bring them in. It will be done through different programs: in the Veteran's Service Organizations and also by using public service announcements then organizations that offer discounts can post that out there. The word will get out that way. It is another way of getting them in to visit.

Chairman Ruby: Couldn't you develop a card for these people?

Lonnie Wangen: It is something that we could possibly develop. It would cost quite a bit for our department to do and have a card available in each county with a machine to make those. This seemed to be the most effective way to indicate make their status as a veteran and getting them into the organization.

Chairman Ruby: Do you have an example of what this would look like?

Lonnie Wangen: No, I do not. The idea was to just use the V for veteran on the card somewhere.

There was no further support for HB 1197.

There was no opposition on HB 1197.

Glenn Jackson, Director of the Department of Transportation, answered questions in a neutral capacity.

Chairman Ruby: What do you envision this will look like, where the indicator will be, and will there be any cost or additional time?

Glenn Jackson: We envisioned a small V by the North Dakota flag in the top left corner. There is not much real estate left on the cover. We can't change any areas where there are names or birthdates. We can't really make any changes to that area. We follow what is called the AMVA-standard, so all the states kind of use the same standard. We follow the standards that we get from the federal government, etc. So, what we are looking at is the space on the top in the pink line putting a small V. (A license was displayed.) As far as

any issues being processed through homeland security, I haven't heard of anyone having any issues along those lines. So, I can't answer in a positive or negative way about that.

Chairman Ruby: Once you receive the notification that they qualify to have a V, how do you notify whichever place where they would go to get their license renewed, that they qualify?

Glenn Jackson: The veteran's service officers will have to fill out and sign a form. They will have to get that form to us. We haven't discussed if there is a way they can provide us electronic verification or not. The form would go to the veteran. They would then come to the driver's license office, and we would have the form to process and save it in the system. The license would then be generated.

Representative Delmore: Are you aware of this working in other states? Do you know how many veterans this would involve?

Glenn Jackson: I do not know the answers to those questions.

Representative Heller: Will there be any added cost to process this?

Glen Jackson: It is a very minor cost. Our contract with L-1 Systems says that they will make changes to how the license is printed. It will be no increase in cost.

Chairman Ruby: You feel comfortable with the verification process?

Glenn Jackson: We already do this with the veteran's plates, and it works.

Representative R. Kelsch moved a DO PASS on HB 1197.

Representative Frantsvog seconded the motion.

Representative R. Kelsch: Department of Transportation obviously has been in contact with them. The biggest question was where to put the V. There is a place to put the V. I think that they have worked out the details and have the verification. So, I moved the DO PASS.

A roll call vote was taken. Aye 13 Nay 0 Absent 0

The motion carried.

Representative Gruchalla will carry HB 1197.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/21/2011

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1197

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium			2013-2015 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill will require the inclusion of a V indicator on the drivers license to indicate the holder is a veteran.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

This bill should have no material fiscal impact to NDDOT.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name:	Glenn Jackson	Agency:	NDDOT
Phone Number:	328-4792	Date Prepared:	01/21/2011

*This bill was voted on in
 Committee on 1/20 before
 receiving this Fiscal Note.*

Date: 1/20/11

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1197

House TRANSPORTATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By R. Kelsch Seconded By Frantsvog

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby	X		Representative Delmore	X	
Vice Chairman Weiler			Representative Gruchalla	X	
Representative Frantsvog	X		Representative Hogan	X	
Representative Heller	X		Representative Onstad	X	
Representative R. Kelsch	X				
Representative Louser	X				
Representative Owens	X				
Representative Sukut	X				
Representative Vigesaa	X				
Representative Weisz	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Gruchalla

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1197: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1197 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1197

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Transportation Committee
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

HB 1197
March 11, 2011
15333

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To honor and identify veterans so they can participate in events, discounts and incentives and to give the Department of Service Affairs an additional opportunity to educate veterans on programs available to them.

Minutes:

Written testimony

Chairman Senator G. Lee opened the hearing on HB 1197 relating to a veteran indicator on an operator's license.

Representative L. Meier, District 99, introduced HB 1197. She said this is a very simple bill to honor our veterans. This bill will enable the NDDOT to put on a veteran's operator license a small indicator. The requests will be made through the Department of Veterans Affairs mainly for the purpose of encouraging the veteran to become familiar with the other services that are available. She stated that it was an honor to be a sponsor for this bill.

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for North Dakota testified in support of HB 1197. Written testimony #1

Senator Nodland said HB 1197 will give identity to North Dakota veterans for additional perks like the Medora Musical and he also agreed with the idea of getting veterans to sign up at the Veterans Affairs office so they get additional information on programs available.

Mr. Wangen reemphasized the importance of getting help to our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He talked about Veteran's Court and the training for law enforcement, judges and attorneys to recognized veterans in distress.

Senator Nething asked when the Director of DOT is going to put this indicator on the license.

Mr. Wangen said that would be when they renew their license or if the veteran wants to come in for a new license.

Senator Sitte asked if people that served stateside (National Guard and Reserves during Vietnam) have this DD2-14 number.

Mr. Wangen replied yes, they are discharge papers and apply to all veterans.

Senator Mathern expressed concern that the veteran support and services are literally not there. He is concerned that this type of thing is an illusion of support for our veterans.

Mr. Wangen outlined the growing services for veterans and the resources available.

Senator Lee asked how veterans will know how this help is available.

Mr. Wangen explained how they would try to get the word out and some of the activities that they plan to expand on.

Senator Mathern again expressed his concern that the services are not available and that there are no psychiatric beds in Dickinson and Williston and he believes Minot is in trouble. He gave an example. His concern is that we are going to create these illusions of care.

Mr. Wangen replied that the Veterans Hospital just opened a larger area that has lockdown beds for those that are of harm to themselves and others. They also have other types of available beds there. Furthermore, he stated that they have a contract with other facilities including special facilities in St. Cloud, MN and Topeka, Kansas. There are beds available in the VA system.

Senator Lee asked how they would get the word out to veterans about the indicator that will be available on their operating license.

Mr. Wangen said they would be putting it in PSA announcements, all the veteran organizations newsletters, on the website, on all the brochures they handout and they plan to do outreach programs, etc.

Lyle Schuchard, Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Veteran Affairs testified in support of HB 1197. Written testimony #2

Senator Mathern expressed his concern that he tried to call a facility for help for a veteran and no one answered.

Mr. Schuchard said there is a Hot Line for help for veterans (211).

Senator Mathern said that the 211 bill was defeated this session of the Legislature.

John Jacobson, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council testified in support of HB 1197. Written testimony #3

Glenn Jackson, North Dakota Department of Transportation explained the veteran indicator and where it would go on the driver's license.

No opposing testimony.

Senator Lee closed the hearing on HB 1197.

Senator Mathern said he was supportive of the bill but he hoped that we don't use it as an indicator that we have really done a lot for veterans.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Transportation Committee
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

HB 1197
March 17, 2011
15595

Conference Committee

Change

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Minutes:

Committee Work/Action

Chairman Senator G. Lee summarized the testimony the committee heard on HB 1197. He explained where the indicator would go and the different purposes for the indicator.

Senator Nething moved a **Do Pass** on HB 1197.

Senator Nodland seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: 6-0-0. **Motion passed.**

Senator Nething is the carrier.

Date: 3-17-11
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1197

Senate Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Nething Seconded By Senator Nodland

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Gary Lee	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Vice Chairman Dave Oehlke	✓				
Senator Dave Nething	✓				
Senator George Nodland	✓				
Senator Margaret Sitte	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Nething

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1197: Transportation Committee (Sen. G. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1197 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HB 1197

HB 1197

Testimony of Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
1/20/2011

Chairman Ruby and Committee members,

HB 1197 allows the ND Department of Motor Vehicles to place a Veteran indicator on the driver's license of ND Veterans. This will allow the Veterans to show their Veteran status so that they can participate in Veteran and Military events and programs such as merchant's providing "Veteran or military" discounts and incentives.

Veterans who served our country but did not achieve retirement status prior to discharge are not provided ID cards. To show they are Veterans they would need to show their DD214 discharge papers, which would be difficult to carry around.

In order for a Veteran to have a "Veteran" indicator on their driver's license they will need to have a Veteran Service Officer sign a form verifying their veteran status. These forms will not be available on a web site or at the DMV. The Veteran will need to visit the office of a Veteran Service Officer, provide a copy of their military discharge papers which the Veteran Service Officer will verify and file for the veteran. In this way we will get veterans into the Veteran Service Offices where they can visit about the veteran's services and benefits.

Visiting a Veteran Service Officer can make a big difference in the quality of life for a veteran. Especially with our active military returning to our state, it is important that the veterans are educated on the programs available to them and be aware of the services they can receive to help them re-integrate into society after serving in a combat zone. With Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Suicide rates of our military service members growing, we need every tool available to reach out and get these veterans into our programs.

Thank you for your time. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

#1

HB 1197

Testimony of Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
3/11/2011

Chairman Lee and Senate Committee members,

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Thank you for your time. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1197
9:30A.M. LEWIS & CLARK ROOM
LYLE SCHUCHARD, CHAIRPERSON
ND AMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
March 11, 2011

GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS. I AM LYLE SCHUCHARD CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETEANS AFFAIRS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS IS A 15 MEMBER COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM NAMES SUBMITTED BY EACH OF THE STATE'S FIVE MAJOR VETERANS ORGANIZATAIONS. THE FIVE ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, (DAV), VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW), VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (VVA), AND THE AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS). WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APROVE HB 1197.

THEREFORE, I ASK THAT THE COMIITTEE GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO PASSING HB 1197.

I WILL TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AT THIS TIME.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY THIS MORNING.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1197 - ND VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL.

A veteran is an individual that has signed a blank check in the amount of and up to including his or her life for their country. Good morning, my name is John L. Jacobsen. I am the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. I am also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I served in the North Dakota National Guard and the US Army Reserve for a total of 30 years. I retired in 1995 as a Colonel. I was mobilized for Active Duty in 1991 during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Like all mobilizations, I left my home and family to serve in the Persian Gulf, stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five Veterans Organizations in North Dakota:

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee MUST concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on HB 1197 is supported by the membership of the Veterans Coordinating Council.