

2019 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1128

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee - Human Resources Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB1128
1/30/2019
31771 & 31807

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Caitlin Fleck

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Overview hearing.

Minutes:

A,B

Took Roll.

Read name and number of bill.

(1.52) Representative Laning: (see attachment A)

(7.38) Chairman Jon O. Nelson: On line 16, the executive budget did put the 50,000 in the budget already, so it is already in there. Are you asking for an additional 50,000?

Representative Laning: No, just one 50,000.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: That would be for 4 dogs?

Representative Laning: Up to 4 dogs. The dogs can be trained on different levels. One dog could cost 25,000 depending on the type and amount of training they receive.

Representative Richard G. Holman: Our former veterans service officer (VSO) in Trail county was a trainer and every summer we had a church service where she would come and present her story as to what these dogs are for. Everyone that finds out what these dogs do, they see that they are very valuable.

Representative Laning: I believe that nationwide about 20 veterans commit suicide.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: Another part of this program is that the inmates in the prison help in the training for these dogs. So this program travels further than just the veterans.

Representative Laning: That is a good program too.

Vice Chairman Gary Kreidt: 50,000 to train the 4 dogs, actually is about 25,000 to get a dog trained? So the additional money that you would need would come from donations?

Representative Laning: It could be up to 25,000 for one dog, that would be a maximum for dog. It depends on who easily they are trained, and what training they receive.

Vice Chairman Gary Kreidt: But they could have additional funds?

Representative Laning: Yes, they do have additional funding.

Representative Richard G. Holman: Are these on policy committee too?

Representative Jeff Magrum: No.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: Leadership sent them down here because they are part of our budget, and in most cases they are in the budget already, so we are the policy committee on this.

(Recording #31771 stops here at 14.47)

(Input recording # 31807 at 0.00 to 1.00)

Representative Magrum: I am here to testify in support of HB1168, HB1177, and HB1178. If you have any questions as the hearings go along, I would redirect you to ask Lonnie Wangen, or any of the other gentlemen here today. Thank you.

(Recording #31771 starts here again at 14.48) Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of ND Veteran's Affairs: Chairman Nelson felt it may be important to consider carryover funding authority for some of these funds. I ask that you would consider that with this, and some of the other bills that are coming up.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: If this bill doesn't go forward, we would consider that carryover funding in your budget as an amendment for that budget.

Jim Nelson, Legislative Director for the ND Veterans Legislative Council: We support this bill. There is no way I can beat what was talked about the last time we met.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: The partnership with private donations, there is a lot of people that have donated to this program. Do you have a list of where the funding comes from?

Mr. Nelson: I don't have those figures, but I think I can get them. Mr. Wangen could get them to you.

(Input recording #31807 starting at 1.02 to end)

Mr. Wangen: I received an email from Jenny last night showed that there are 3 dogs with veterans ready to train and 1 that is waiting on the information from the veteran to begin training. It's going to be tight but she feels that they will be close to graduating, or all close to graduating by the end of the biennium. We don't want them to push it too hard though.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR TESTIMONY. MEETING CLOSED.

Attachment B was emailed and handed out because presenter couldn't make it to the meeting due to weather complications.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee - Human Resources Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB1128
1/30/2019
31809

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Caitlin Fleck

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Voting on the bill.

Minutes:

Opened hearing.

Discussing what to do for committee work this afternoon.

Representative Randy A. Schobinger: Do not pass.

Representative Lisa Meier: Second.

No Discussion.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: One of the issues that we did talk about, is if this motion does pass, the ability to use the carryover funds from the biennium to the next, would be something that we would consider on their agency budget.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion Passed.

Floor assignment is **Representative Randy A. Schobinger.**

Meeting concluded.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1128
1/31/2019
31880

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Risa Bergquist

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

The department of veterans' affairs for the training of service dogs for North Dakota veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder.

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer: Called meeting to order for HB 1128

Representative Schobinger: This is the bill to appropriate 50 thousand dollars for the training of PTSD type service dogs for veterans, that exact amount is in the veteran's budget and it looks like the committee is planning on proceeding with that, so we asked for a Do Not Pass.

Chairman Delzer: There is also some carry over money? What is the discussion on that so far?

Representative Schobinger: That is correct, not sure the amount but that money is being used to train 3-4 dogs currently.

Representative J. Nelson: There is 3 service dogs that are close to graduation by the end of the biennium if they do not graduate by that date we are preparing an amendment to carry over those funds.

Chairman Delzer: The cost normally for a dog is about 12 ½? So 50 thousand does about 4 dogs?

Representative Schobinger: It varies on the ability of the dog to learn; it takes about 25 thousand dollars per dog.

Chairman Delzer: And it takes a 1:1 match?

Representative J. Nelson: There's no requirement it's the understanding that we cover half of the cost.

Chairman Delzer:

Representative Schobinger: Because it's already in the budget I would make a motion for
DO Not Pass

Representative J. Nelson: Second

Chairman Delzer: Any further discussion? We will take a vote.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 17 Nay: 0 Absent: 4

Motion Carries

Representative Schobinger will carry the bill

Chairman Delzer closes the hearing on HB 1128

Date: 1-30-2019
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1128**

House Appropriations - Human Resources Division Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Schobinger Seconded By Rep. Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jon O. Nelson	X		Rep. Richard G. Holman	X	
Vice Chairman Gary Kreidt	X				
Representative Bert Anderson	X				
Representative Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Randy A. Schobinger	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Schobinger

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

Date: 1/31/2019
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1128**

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Representative Schobinger Seconded By Representative J. Nelson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X				
Representative Kempenich	A				
Representative Anderson	X		Representative Schobinger	X	
Representative Beadle	A		Representative Vigesaa	X	
Representative Bellew	A				
Representative Brandenburg	A				
Representative Howe	X		Representative Boe	X	
Representative Kreidt	X		Representative Holman	X	
Representative Martinson	X		Representative Mock	X	
Representative Meier	X				
Representative Monson	X				
Representative Nathe	X				
Representative J. Nelson	X				
Representative Sanford	X				
Representative Schatz	X				
Representative Schmidt	X				

Total (Yes) 17 No 0

Absent 4

Floor Assignment Representative Schobinger

Motion Carries

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1128: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (17 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1128 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

HB 1128

Introduction of HB 1128

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Rep. Vernon Laning from District 8 and I'm to introduce HB 1128.

This bill is about this 66th Legislative Assembly stepping up to the plate and appropriating \$50,000 to the department of veteran's affairs for the purpose of training up to 4 service dogs to assist our North Dakota veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or more commonly known as PTSD. This bill has previously been funded in the last two legislative sessions.

PTSD is often considered a soldier's illness, since those who have served in combat are much more likely to develop it.

Once called shell shock or combat fatigue, post-traumatic stress disorder can develop after witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, feelings of detachment, irritability, trouble concentrating and sleeplessness.

Some veterans are hesitant to go for treatment because they feel shame over needing to seek mental health treatment or there is a fear of being seen as weak.

A survey from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research showed that less than half of those with problems sought help, mostly out of fear of being stigmatized or hurting their careers. The average cost for the first year of treatment for a recent veteran with PTSD is \$8300.

The National Institute of Drug Abuse showed that in 2008 active duty and veteran military personnel abused prescription drugs at a rate that was more than twice the rate for the civilian population. In 2009, the VA estimated that around 13,000 vets from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from alcohol dependence syndrome and require veteran mental health treatment for this problem.

Dr. Charles W. Hoge, one of the researchers at Walter Reed said that "the troops with problems are not seeking care and that the most important thing we can do for service members who have been in combat is to help them understand that the earlier that they get help when they need it, the better off they'll be."

Some of you may have seen Jenny, the service dog who was in Memorial Hall last week when Service Dogs for America was here. They train service dogs for individuals living with PTSD and this requires very specialized knowledge and skills – in both the trainer and the dog. These service dogs must have a perceptive nature, a courteous, compliant temperament and an intuitive spirit in order to perform their duties independently when the individual is facing a crisis. Their training team works to identify and evaluate these unique dogs, and then train them to recognize and interrupt the behaviors associated

with anxiety, panic attacks and nightmares. The trainers also evaluate both dogs and applicants in order to effectively pair a successful team.

Each dog is trained to a standard, and additional training is customized to the individual needs of the applicant. They are committed to working together with the applicant and their service dog as they learn to work as a team to increase physical, emotional and social self-sufficiency. The dogs are trained to perform many services including, but not limited to:

- Alleviating anxiety or distress and providing psycho-emotional grounding by nudging, pawing, and leaning.
- They assist a person in waking from night terrors and nightmares.
- They distract a person from an event or specific behavior by nudging, pawing, and licking.
- They will bring medication to a person on command or when alerted to do so by a timer/alarm.
- They will stand in front of or circle an individual in crowded areas in order to create personal space in a non-aggressive manner.
- They lead an individual safely to a building exit when experiencing an anxiety or panic attack.
- They will get help by alerting another person or activate an emergency button or alert system.

A trained PTSD service dog is a tool and is not intended to substitute or replace current therapeutic or medication treatment plan.

We can no longer look the other way or continue to under fund the needs of our veterans. These men and women stepped up and sacrificed to protect our country and population, the least we can do is ensure that they have the help they need after they return home and are discharged from the military. Only four dogs doesn't seem like very many, but it will mean the world to the veteran and his family that receives them.

So for the sake of our veterans, I'm requesting you give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you.

From: Nelson, Jon O.
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:34 AM
To: NDLA, H APP HR - Fleck, Caitlin
Subject: Fwd: House Bill 1128 ND Service Dog Appropriation Testimony

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Service Dogs for America <info@servicedogsforamerica.org>
Date: January 30, 2019 at 9:10:13 AM CST
To: <jonelson@nd.gov>, <gkreidt@nd.gov>, <bertanderson@nd.gov>, <rholman@nd.gov>, <lmeier@nd.gov>, <rschobinger@nd.gov>
Cc: <wtrottier@nd.gov>, <vrlaning@nd.gov>, <ddever@nd.gov>, <rmarcellais@nd.gov>, Lonnie Wangen <lwangen@nd.gov>, "Service Dogs for America" <info@servicedogsforamerica.org>
Subject: RE: House Bill 1128 ND Service Dog Appropriation Testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe.

Mr. Lonnie Wangen contacted me and stated you would like to know who covers the remainder of the cost of a service dog after the ND Veteran appropriation from the Department of Veterans Affairs is applied.

We pair the ND Veteran appropriation of \$12,500 primarily with money from our scholarship account. The money in the scholarship account comes from private donors, fund raising events (which have been hosted by ND Representatives, ND Senators, events like Cars with a Cause and Bark in the Park, as well as Lions organizations, DAV, AMVETS, VFW, etc – this is not an all-inclusive list). If there is still a balance we appeal to other veteran support organizations like Semper Fi, Chive Charities, the Letters Foundation, to name a few.

Since I took over as ED in Jan 2015, no Veteran (ND or other state) has incurred ANY out of pocket expense for the cost of their service dog/team training!

Additionally, I have a full time development director, Dr. Marty Douglas, who is constantly searching for and applying for grants, scholarships, and funding to ensure that the cost of re-established independence through the partnership of a service dog is NOT a financial burden.

An added bonus, we also received a federal grant which allows us to provide veterans (ND and other) with a small amount of per diem and partial travel expenses for their time in Jud, during team training. Veteran's do not pay an application fee, either. Those application fees are covered by a donation from a private donor.

Please let me know if you have more questions. 701.685.2242 or info@servicedogsforamerica.org

Respectfully,

Jenny BrodKorb

Jenny BrodKorb | Executive Director

Service Dogs for America



920 Short Street | P.O. Box 513 | Jud, ND 58454

Phone: 701.685.2242 | Fax: 877.783.6953

www.servicedogsforamerica.org

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From: Service Dogs for America [<mailto:info@servicedogsforamerica.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:43 PM

To: 'jonelson@nd.gov'; 'gkreidt@nd.gov'; 'bertanderson@nd.gov'; 'rholman@nd.gov'; 'lmeier@nd.gov'; 'rschobinger@nd.gov'

Cc: 'wtrottier@nd.gov'; 'vrlaning@nd.gov'; 'ddever@nd.gov'; 'rmarcellais@nd.gov'

Subject: House Bill 1128 ND Service Dog Appropriation Testimony

House Bill 1128

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for the training of service dogs for North Dakota veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder.

Introduced by:

Rep. Laning, Trottier

Sen. Dever, Marcellais

Sakakawea Room

1/30/2019

8:30 AM

Chairman Nelson and Committee:

My name is Jenny M. BrodKorb. I am the Executive Director at Service Dogs for America located in Jud, ND.

Please accept my electronic testimony on HB 1128. I would prefer to be there in person, however, the weather conditions pose an exaggerated risk to drive the 2 hours (from Jud, ND to Bismarck, ND) in -32 F degree ambient (-53 degree wind chill) temperatures. Please excuse my absence.

I would like to **THANK YOU** for hearing testimony in consideration of HB 1128. The monies in this appropriation changes lives, without a doubt. You heard testimony from SGT Jeremiah Erickson and Service Dog Ida, recently. This is only one of 9 service dog teams this money has benefited. Due to the financial assistance provided by this approbation, 9 service members have been granted their freedom and independence back, from their combat injuries as a result of PTSD.

At Service Dogs for America, we are grateful and honored to be part of this process. We never want the return of independence through the partnership of a service dog to be a financial burden.

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Mr. Lonnie Wangen has long been a champion for this cause in North Dakota for our Veterans. **We publicly thank Mr. Lonnie Wangen for his dedication and service to our Veterans. We also thank him for his relentless passion to see our Veterans "whole" again and have their independence reestablished through the partnership of a service dog.**

I have provided Mr. Lonnie Wangen with the following numbers; this represents how many ND Veterans have been served by this appropriation, in the past, and how many are in the pipeline.

To date, we have placed 9 service dogs with ND Veterans, across the state, using the ND Veteran Service Dog appropriation from ND. Depart of Veterans Affairs. **Thank you, Chairman Nelson and Committee, for this support for our ND Veterans.**

As of 1/29/2018, Currently we have:

Scheduled - ND Veterans: 3 (scheduled to begin team training with a service dog)

Pending Scheduling - ND Veterans: 2 (waiting on the Veteran)

Pending Scheduling - ND Veterans: 1 (waiting on SDA schedule as we try to not have seizure clients in the Jan-March months)

Veterans who have No-Showed in this biennium: 2

Our application is two stages – preliminary application and full application. Our preliminary applications for ND Veterans are reviewed immediately upon receipt. Our full applications include medical and mental health documentation, as well as professional and personal references. Full applications are reviewed for medical necessity and medical benefit by a Medical Review Board. This is to ensure we are compliant with the definitions of the American's with Disabilities Act and our accreditation standards, Assistance Dogs International.

Approved ND Veteran preliminary applications: 8 (waiting for veteran to complete full application and return to us)

Pending ND Veteran full applications: 4 (waiting for reference questionnaires to be returned to us)

Full ND Veteran applications pending Medical Review Board: 1 (waiting for veteran medical review board, meets every 6 weeks)

We will have additional ND Veteran working Service Dog teams available at the next hearing. We can also request they be available via email or phone, if you would find it beneficial.

I am available via email (info@servicedogsforamerica.org) or via telephone (701.685.2242) to answer any questions.

Thank you, in advance.

Respectfully,

Jenny BrodKorb

Jenny BrodKorb | Executive Director

Service Dogs for America



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