

2019 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1129

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1129
2/8/2019
32483

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to duties of the commissioner of veterans' affairs

Minutes:

Attachments 1, 2

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on HB 1129.

Rep. Laning appeared in support. Attachment 1. (:04-2:00)

Senator Richard Marcellais appeared in support. Attachment 2. Strike the amendment in my testimony. I found yesterday when the commissioner testified he has no jurisdiction over our tribal veterans' service officers for the tribe. We are a separate nation, so we provide our services to our members of the tribe and under the supervision of the chairpersons of those tribes. The commissioner is an advocate for us and assists with the benefits. (2:18-3:54)

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, appeared in support. The definition of instrumentalities came up. As we were being audited, the auditors felt instrumentalities meant government agencies, and we have always interpreted that as government and private corporations and organizations. We work with the non-profits all the time, like the VFW, etc.

Vice Chair Steiner: If they considered you an agency before, were they auditing you every year and does that change the audit pattern to move you to this type of designation?

Mr. Wangen: It shouldn't change any way we do business. This was a performance audit. We decided either we define it or clarify it, so the next time an audit does come, we will show the actions that happened here were addressed and now within the letter of law.

Rep. C. Johnson: Have you coordinated with other states?

Mr. Wangen: Yes, we work with a lot of cities on the border states.

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing.

Rep. Schauer made a motion for a DO PASS.

Rep. Rohr seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. 13-0, 1 absent.

Rep. Johnston will carry the bill.

Date: 2-8-19
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1129

House Government and Veterans Affairs 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. Schauer Seconded By Rep. Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Pamela Anderson	X	
Vice Chair Vicky Steiner	X		Rep. Mary Schneider	X	
Rep. Jeff Hoverson	X				
Rep. Craig Johnson	X				
Rep. Daniel Johnston	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Austen Schauer	X				
Rep. Steve Vetter	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Johnston

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1129: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1129 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1129

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB1129
3/15/2019
33778

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Pam Dever

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to duties of the commissioner of veterans' affairs.

Minutes:

Att # 1- Rep Laning; Att # 2- Sen. Marcellais

Chairman Davison: Let's open the hearing on HB1129.

Rep. Vernon Laning, Dist. 8: I am here to introduce this bill. It is just a clarification of duties. (see att# 1) (2.26) Any questions?

Lonnie Wangen, N.D. Veterans Affairs: I am in support of this bill. The biggest thing that comes out of this is the word 'instrumentalities' on line 7. It had to be redefined. We worked with the Attorney General's Office. (3.45) Any questions?

Chairman Davison: Any more in favor? Agencies? Against? Close the hearing. (4.08)

Vice Chair Meyer: I move a DO PASS on HB1129.

Sen. Jay Elkin: I second.

Chairman Davison: Any discussion? Seeing none. **Take roll: YES -- 7 NO -- 0 -0-a.b. PASSED. Sen. Jay Elkin will carry the bill.** (Sen. Marcellais came in right after & voted yes, but recording had just been turned off)

Done (5.02)

Att # 2 – Sen. Marcellais handed out his testimony before he went and testified in House hearing.

3-15-19

Date:
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1129

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs 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 Sen. Meyer Seconded By Sen. Elkin

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Davison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Sen. Oban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vice Chair Meyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Sen. Marcellais	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sen. Elkin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sen. K. Roers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sen. Vedaa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Elkin

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1129: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Davison, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1129 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

HB 1129

Introduction of HB 1129

#1
HB 1129
2-8-19

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the GVA. I'm Rep. Vernon Laning from District 8 here to introduce HB 1129.

This bill is really just a clarification of the duties of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Following an audit conducted back in 2016 and reviewed in 2017, there were some verbal discussions regarding the duties of the commissioner especially regarding the coordination of veteran's affairs with other organizations and agencies in the state and nation.

If I could direct your attention to the bill itself, under section 1 the old language does not specify federal or private organizations so subpara 1 more clearly spells out those as part of his duties and really is the main change created by this bill.

The rest of the bill is just a reshuffle of words except in subpara 4 that deletes language referencing a 1944 act that is no longer a valid reference.

With that Mr. Chairman, I'll stand for any questions.

NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Richard Marcellais

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

House Bill 1129

**Good Morning Chairman Kasper, members of the House
Government Veteran Affairs Committee**

***For the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator
from District 9 Rolette County, I am here today to
provide testimony in support of House Bill 1129.***

***House Bill 1129 relating to duties of the commissioner of
veterans' affairs.***

***Some of the Benefits & Services the commissioner of
veterans' affairs provides to the Veterans, Spouses, and
Dependents are Healthcare, Financial, Burial &
Memorial, Veterans Appreciation, Employment,
Education & Training, Housing Assistance, Military,
Veteran and Family Outreach Programs, Women &
Minority Veterans and Other Assistance.***

***Recommended Amendment: remove "county" on page
1, line 19; page 1, line 21; page 1, line 22.***

Insert: "and tribes" after counties on page 1 line 21.

***Thank You very much for the opportunity to appear in
support of House Bill 1129. If there are any questions, I
will try and answer them.***

Introduction of HB 1129

AB 1129-19
3-15-19
Att # 1
pg 1

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This bill is really just a clarification of the duties of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Following an audit conducted back in 2016 and reviewed in 2017, there were some verbal discussions regarding the duties of the commissioner especially regarding the coordination of veteran's affairs with other organizations and agencies in the state and nation.

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With that Mr. Chairman, I'll stand for any questions.

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

House Bill 1129

Chairman Davison members of the Senate Government Veterans Affairs Committee my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9 Rolette County.

I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1129 relating to duties of the commissioner of Veterans' Affairs.

Some of the Benefits & Services the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs provides to the Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents:

- *Health Care*
- *Financial*
- *Burial & Memorial*
- *Veterans Appreciation*
- *Employment*
- *Education & Training*
- *Housing Assistance*
- *Military Veteran & Family Outreach Programs*
- *Women & Minority Veterans*
- *Other Assistance*

Thank You very much for the opportunity to appear in support of House Bill 1129. If there are any questions, I will try and answer them.

original