

2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1182

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veteran Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
1/19/2023

Relating to creation of the military honors funeral funds and reimbursement for funeral services; to provide an appropriation; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

Chairman Schauer Called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairmen Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

Discussion Topics:

- Funeral Honors
- Live Bugles
- 50 Dollars Each Funeral

Representative Ruby- Testifies in favor.

Jay Sheldon, Strategy & Policy Officer NDNG- Testifies in favor (Testimony #14380)

Cody Hertz- NDDG- Answers committee questions

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veteran Affairs- Testifies in favor (Testimony #13938)

Representative Schauer- Closed the meeting for HB 1182 at 8:57 AM

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
1/19/2023

Relating to creation of the military honors funeral funds and reimbursement for funeral services; to provide an appropriation; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 3:26 PM

Members Present: Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider.

Members not Present: Representative Steiner

Discussion Topics:

- Appropriation

Representative Rohr- Moves for a Do Pass

Representative Bahl- Second the motion

Roll Call Vote was Taken.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	A
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

12-0-1 Motion Passed Representative McLeod will carry the bill.

Bill will be Rereferred to Appropriations

Representative Schauer Closed meeting of HB 1182 at 3:28 PM

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1182: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee**
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1182 was rereferred to the
Appropriations Committee.

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1182

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
2/1/2023

Relating to creation of the military honors funeral funds and reimbursement for funeral services; to provide an appropriation; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

9:02 AM Chairman Vigesaa- Called the meeting to order and the roll was taken:

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Discussion Topics:

- Funeral Honors
- Live Taps Performance compensation

Representative Schauer- Introduces the bill for HB 1182 (Testimony #18509)

Cody Hertz-Chief Warrant Officer, ND National Guard- Oral testimony.

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner- NDDVA – Gives further information (Testimony #18448)

Major Jay Sheldon, Strategy and Policy Officer, ND National Guard- Clarifies questions.

Additional written testimony: Representative M. Ruby (#18505)

Chairman Vigesaa- Closes the hearing for HB 1182 at 9:32 AM

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
2/15/2023

Relating to creation of the military honors funeral funds and reimbursement for funeral services
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7:29 PM Chairman Vigesaa- Meeting was called to order and roll call was taken:

All Members Present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment
- Live TAPS Player

Representative Nathe- Introduces his amendment and its purpose 23.0298.02001 (Testimony #20943)

Representative Nathe- Move to adopt amendment 23.0298.02001

Representative Schobinger- Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y

Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 23-0-0

Representative Nathe Move for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Schobinger Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 23-0-0 Representative M. Ruby will carry the bill.

7:37 PM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for HB 1182

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

OH
2-15-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1182

- Page 1, line 2, remove "creation of the military honors funeral funds and"
- Page 1, line 3, after the first semicolon insert "and"
- Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"
- Page 1, line 7, remove "**Military honors funeral fund -**"
- Page 1, line 8 remove "**Continuing appropriation**"
- Page 1, line 9, remove "A special fund is established in the state treasury and designated as the military"
- Page 1, remove lines 10 through 12
- Page 1, line 13, remove "3."
- Page 1, line 15, replace "4." with "2."
- Page 1, line 17, after the underscored period insert "If a veterans' service organization has received federal reimbursement for providing a funeral service for a military honors funeral, the veterans' service organization may not apply for reimbursement under this section."
- Page 1, line 18, replace "5." with "3."
- Page 1, line 21, replace "6." with "4."
- Page 2, line 5, replace "\$200,000" with "\$135,000"
- Page 2, line 6, remove "for deposit in the military honors"
- Page 2, line 7, remove "funeral fund"
- Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1182: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (23 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1182 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, remove "creation of the military honors funeral funds and"

Page 1, line 3, after the first semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"

Page 1, line 7, remove "**Military honors funeral fund -**"

Page 1, line 8 remove "**Continuing appropriation**"

Page 1, line 9, remove "A special fund is established in the state treasury and designated as the military"

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Page 1, line 21, replace "6." with "4."

Page 2, line 5, replace "\$200,000" with "\$135,000"

Page 2, line 6, remove "for deposit in the military honors"

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Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1182

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
3/16/2023

A bill relating to reimbursement for funeral services; and to provide an appropriation.

8:30 AM Chairman Luick called the meeting to order, Members present: Chairman Luick, Senator Hogan, Senator Weston, Senator Weber. Members absent: Vice Chairman Myrdal, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Veteran service organization
- Honors for veterans
- Live taps
- Funeral service stipend
- Travel cost

8:32 Representative Matt Ruby introduced HB 1182 and testified in favor. #25537

8:37 AM Major Jay Shelden, Policy Officer for the National Guard, testified. # 25262

8:42 AM Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, testified in favor of HB 1182. # 25227

Additional written testimony:

Joe Hall # 24267

8:44 AM Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

8:44 AM Senator Hogan moved a DO PASS and Rerefer to Appropriations.
Senator Weber seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	A
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	A
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Vote: 4-0-2 Motion Passed and Rereferred to Appropriations.

Senator Weber will carry the bill.

8:46 AM Chairman Luick closed the meeting.

Brenda Cook, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1182, as engrossed: Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (4 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1182 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1182

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
3/29/2023

A BILL relating to reimbursement for funeral services

8:30 AM Chairman Dever opened the meeting. Members present: Senators Dever, Mathern, Davison, Burckhard, and Kreun.

Discussion Topics:

- Veteran funerals
- Salute, flag, TAPS
- Stipends
- Funeral costs
- Reporting requirement
- Form through Funeral director

8:30 AM Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, Veterans Affairs, introduced SB 1182 and testified in favor. #26954

8:47 AM Senator Mathern moved DO PASS on HB 1182
Senator Davison seconded the motion.

8:49 AM Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Dever will carry the bill.

8:51 AM Chairman Dever closed the meeting.

Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1182
3/31/2023

Relating to reimbursement for funeral services; and to provide an appropriation.

11:10 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on HB 1182.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Members absent: Senator Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:11 AM Senator Dever introduced the bill verbally.

11:15 AM Senator Dever moved DO PASS.
Senator Davison seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	AB
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed. 15-0-1

Senator Weber will carry the bill.

11:16 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the meeting.

Justin Boone on behalf of Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1182, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1182 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1182

HB 1182

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/19/2023

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
68th Legislative Session
Representative Schauer-Chair

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1182

Intent of this bill...

- Provide funding to Veteran Service Organizations for providing Military Funeral Honors

Need for bill...

- The Veteran Service Organizations (VSO') in ND have and continue to provide Funeral Honor (FH) Details in Support of military services.
- Army has a \$50 stipend, but funding not guaranteed
- ND NG coordinates FH in ND
- ND DVA coordinates FH Coin program in ND
- Together NDNG and NDDVA can coordinate this program
- Outcome will better account for and report veteran funerals in ND
- Many VSO's are struggling to financially support their FH programs

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR JAY SHELDON
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
19 JANUARY 2023
HOUSE BILL 1182

Good morning, Chairman Schauer, members of the committee, I am Jay Sheldon, Strategy and Policy Officer for the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1182

The NDNG supports the establishment of a state sponsored Military Funeral Burial Stipend that is like programs that exist in Minnesota and South Dakota. We have worked closely with Rep. Matt Ruby and Commissioner Wangen in the preparation of this bill.

The NDNG manages a federally funded Military Funeral Honors program which can provide a stipend to Veteran Service Organizations (VSO). However, our program has limited funds and rules that restrict who is eligible for the stipend. Under these rules the NDNG can only provide the stipend for Army funerals that has a live bugler.

These rules significantly reduce the number of VSOs eligible to receive a stipend. The program being proposed would authorize a stipend for congressionally chartered VSOs that provide the key elements of honor for members of all branches of service and regardless of how the honor of Taps is performed. VSOs would NOT receive both a state and federal stipend.

We feel this stipend, although minimal, will ensure that appropriate honors are provided to eligible military members in the future.

I ask for your support of HB 1182 and will stand by for any questions that you may have.

HB 1182

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

2/1/2023

**House Appropriations Committee
68th Legislative Session
Representative Vigesaa-Chair**

Chairman Vigesaa and House Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1182

Intent of this bill...

- Provide funding to Veteran Service Organizations for providing Military Funeral Honors

Need for bill...

- The Veteran Service Organizations (VSO') in ND have and continue to provide Funeral Honor (FH) Details in Support of military services.
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- Together NDNG and NDDVA can coordinate this program
- Outcome will better account for and report veteran funerals in ND
- Many VSO's are struggling to financially support their FH programs
- MN and SD have similar programs
- \$50 Stipend is for the entire detail (not per person)
 - For expenses: Uniforms, fuel, ammo, rifles, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Matthew Ruby

District 40
1400 Golden Valley Lane
Minot, ND 58703-1192
C: 701-509-8149
mruby@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Human Services
Energy and Natural Resources

01FEB23

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1182. This bill would create a reimbursement fund for Veteran Service Organizations that provide one of the services of a military veteran's funeral. Currently the Department of the Army has a reimbursement of \$50 if a VSO plays a live bugle at a funeral. There aren't many live buglers in the state anymore. During my time as a team leader of the Military Funeral Honors program I covered the northwest part of the state from Rugby to Montana, and McClusky and Watford City to Canada. I have presented flags to cameras, the lone attendee that had coffee with the veteran, and numerous funeral directors when there was nobody in attendance. I had 3 live buglers in the entire area. The only constant, aside from a funeral director, was the Veteran Organizations that sometimes had just a handful of guys to render a 3 volley salute. More often than not, my partner or I would play a high quality recording of TAPS that was inserted into a bugle. What this bill proposes is to create a \$50 reimbursement for a VSO that does one of the five parts of a veterans funeral. The 5 parts are the folding of the US Flag, presentation of the US Flag, presentation of the ND State Coin, playing of TAPS, and the 3 volley Salute. Only one VSO can claim this reimbursement and the intent is that they would first attempt to get the federal reimbursement. If they do receive that they wouldn't be able to get the state reimbursement.

To put this into numerical terms, its estimated that 60% of all military funerals in ND are Army veterans and out of those only about 30% had a live bugle to qualify for the Federal reimbursement. Each branch does their own funerals and the ND Army National Guard averages about 765 funerals a year. Using those numbers, we are estimating about 1275 veteran funerals a year. Keep in mind that we can expect rise and falls that correlate with the gaps between major wars where our military numbers rose and fell. We came in on the high side with our ask of \$200,000 and we would understand a reduction if the committee felt that was necessary. The Department of Veteran Affairs has identified an existing fund that this money could be deposited and they would create the rules and process for reimbursement.

I hope you will approve this new program. This is a small amount that will go a long ways to maintain uniforms, help with travel costs and to maintain equipment. These services for veteran funerals are important to provide closure to the family and the final honors to the veteran. I respectfully ask for a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the House Appropriations Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, representing District 13 in West Fargo.

House Bill 1182 establishes a state sponsored Military Funeral Burial Stipend similar to programs in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Currently, the North Dakota National Guard manages a **federally funded** Military Funeral Honors program which provides a \$50 stipend to Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs).

However, this program has **limited funds** and rules that restrict who is eligible for the stipend.

Under these rules, the National Guard can only provide the stipend for **Army funerals** that have a **live bugler**.

These rules significantly reduce the number of VSOs eligible to receive a stipend.

The program (**under HB 1182**) would authorize a \$50 stipend for congressionally chartered VSOs that provide the key elements of honor for members of **ALL** branches of service regardless of how the honor of Taps is performed. (A quality audio recording of Taps would be allowed).

VSOs **would not** receive **both** a state and federal stipend.

As you know, funeral Honors include folding of the flag, presentation of the flag, presentation of the state coin, playing of the taps and a three-volley salute.

Even though the stipend is only **\$50**, many VSOs are struggling to financially support their Funeral Honors program.

The ask under this is **\$200 thousand dollars** in continuing appropriation to help cover the yearly average of **16 hundred funerals**.

HB 1182 passed **GVA** by a 12-0 mark and the full House by a **90-0** margin.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members.

23.0298.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative M. Ruby
February 14, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1182

Page 1, line 2, remove "creation of the military honors funeral funds and"

Page 1, line 3, after the first semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"

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Page 2, line 6, remove "for deposit in the military honors"

Page 2, line 7, remove "funeral fund"

Renumber accordingly

HB 1182

My name is Joe Hall, I am President of the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council (NDVLC).

The NDVLC supports this bill and requests a DO PASS for HB 1182.

HB 1182

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

3/16/2023

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Luick-Chair

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1182

Intent of this bill...

- Provide funding to Veteran Service Organizations for providing Military Funeral Honors

Need for bill...

- The Veteran Service Organizations (VSO') in ND have and continue to provide Funeral Honor (FH) Details in Support of military services.
- Army has a \$50 stipend, but funding not guaranteed
- ND NG coordinates FH in ND
- ND DVA coordinates FH Coin program in ND
- Together NDNG and NDDVA can coordinate this program
- Outcome will better account for and report veteran funerals in ND
- Many VSO's are struggling to financially support their FH programs
- MN and SD have similar programs
- \$50 Stipend is for the entire detail (not per person)
 - For expenses: Uniforms, fuel, ammo, rifles, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR JAY SHELDON
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
16 MARCH 2023
HOUSE BILL 1182

Good morning, Chairman Luick, members of the committee, I am Jay Sheldon, Strategy and Policy Officer for the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1182

The NDNG supports the establishment of a state sponsored Military Funeral Burial Stipend that is like programs that exist in Minnesota and South Dakota. We have worked closely with Rep. Matt Ruby and Commissioner Wangen in the preparation of this bill.

The NDNG manages a federally funded Military Funeral Honors program which can provide a stipend to Veteran Service Organizations (VSO). However, our program has limited funds and rules that restrict who is eligible for the stipend. Under these rules the NDNG can only provide the stipend for Army funerals that has a live bugler.

These rules significantly reduce the number of VSOs eligible to receive a stipend. The program being proposed would authorize a stipend for congressionally chartered VSOs that provide the key elements of honor for members of all branches of service and regardless of how the honor of Taps is performed. VSOs would NOT receive both a state and federal stipend.

We feel this stipend, although minimal, will ensure that appropriate honors are provided to eligible military members in the future.

I ask for your support of HB 1182 and will stand by for any questions that you may have.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Matthew Ruby

District 40
1400 Golden Valley Lane
Minot, ND 58703-1192

C: 701-509-8149

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COMMITTEES:
Human Services
Energy and Natural Resources

16MAR23

Good morning Chairman Luick, Vice Chairman Myrdal, and Committee,

My name is Matt Ruby and I have the honor to represent District 40 in the ND House of Representatives. HB 1182 is a bill that would create a \$50 stipend for a Veteran Service Organization that performs one of the 5 parts of a military Veteran's funeral. Currently the North Dakota Army National Guard provides the honors for Army veterans and the other branches cover their own. In most areas there is a VSO that also provide honors. When I was a team leader in the Military Funeral Honors Program covering the northwest quadrant of the state, we typically provided the folding of the U S Flag and the presentation to the family but it's not uncommon for us to play TAPS with a recorded version that is played from an insert that goes inside a bugle as well. The VSO typically provides the 3 Volley Salute, the playing of TAPS when they can and present the state coin to the family. The Department of the Army will provide a \$50 stipend if the VSO plays a live bugle at an Army veteran's funeral only, but there are only a handful of VSOs across the state that have someone that plays live TAPS. South Dakota created a stipend program to help cover down for the other branches and for those VSOs that don't have a live bugler and the intent is that we would model our program after theirs. About 60% of the roughly 1275 veteran funerals across the state in the last year were Army and a very small portion of those qualified for the stipend from the department of the Army. This isn't a big amount per funeral but it goes a long way to help pay for transportation, uniforms and training so a veteran gets the proper final respect they deserve.

HB 1182

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

3/29/2023

Senate Appropriations (HR) Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Dever-Chair

Chairman Dever and Senate Appropriations (HR) Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1182

Intent of this bill...

- Provide funding to Veteran Service Organizations for providing Military Funeral Honors

Need for bill...

- The Veteran Service Organizations (VSO') in ND have and continue to provide Funeral Honor (FH) Details in Support of military services.
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Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA