

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1128

2005 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1128

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1128

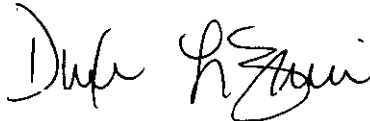
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/13/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		14.4-54.3
		x	0-35.6

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes: HB 1128 Appointment of a county veterans' service officer. 13 present, 1 absent.

Bob Hanson, Commissioner-For-Testimony Attached-Language in the law that just allowed counties to have a County Service Officer, but didn't require them, that is one of the major changes and the counties that have smaller numbers of veterans, asking counties be allowed to have Service Officer for more than one county, so they can start consolidating. Make them more affective in the areas they are not full time. What they generate in dollars for veterans, because all of these dollars that you see their that go back to veterans by counties are generally the result of work of the county Service Officers in our department. Better training and closer training with our group and their group to insure the veterans can receive the kind of service they deserve.

Rep. Grande: Could this not be accomplished under tool chest law.

Bob: Yes it can, in fact we have a service officer here who has another county.

Rep. Grande: If it can already be done, is there a reason we are putting it in here then.

Bob: We put it in there, because what we have in mind when we changed may to shall, that sort of in a lot of peoples mind threw up a red flag and we want to make sure we weren't opposed.

Rep. Froseth: Are there any qualifications necessary as far as education and also do counties receive grants from the veterans affairs to partially fund the program, what is the salary of Veteran Service officers receive.

Bob: There isn't really any qualifications, basically what we have been trying to do with them they must be knowledgeable in veterans laws on both the state and federal level. Work with the federal agency that may not have veterans things, but human services, so they can help these veterans get into veterans programs, but other programs that maybe assistance to them. On the number of dollars, their are 20 some officers that make less than 500 hundred dollars a month. Some of them don't have office hours, some don't have offices. They work out of their house, don't have computer access. We are concerned about all of this. Funding post war trust earnings, it is not a grant through a county, it is a grant to help individuals.

Rep. Froseth: The grant money is used for individual services, not for funding the veteran service offices. Is there usually a preference given to a veteran for these positions, if possible.

Bob: Yes, we up hold the veterans preference law, so if their is a veteran that applies and their is no others, the veteran will get the preference. If it is a disable veteran applies he will get the job.

Rep. Kasper: Looking at the number of counties on your list for the loans and the grants, I just quickly counted up under the grants by counties, there is 23 counties that have 0. I am assuming that every county in North Dakota has veterans. I am wondering why there are zero's in some of these columns are some of these counties not having service officers who are working or are

veterans not aware of these programs, because it seems to me that this is a program that be more acceptable or should be more used by the veterans of our state.

Bob: You hit on two of the reasons and that is part of the audit that came out. The department was not adequately getting information out into the hands of veterans and that is part of our program now that we need to get this information out, so veterans know that they have this. The more active service officers, they use the program extensively, the amount of grants in 2004 went from 71,000 to 99,000. I anticipate that to be even more, because of the returning veterans and this kind of goes into another area, we were always looking at this bubble moving through the veterans population moving through veterans of World War Two, Korea and Viet Nam. Now we are dealing with teenagers who are coming back and with the guard people who have been activated and who the military wasn't their life. Some are coming back and had business', we need to take a look at how do we get these people back on their feet. If you are getting 500 dollars a month how much time are you going to put in and if you have another business that they roll in as a part time business service officer with that, it is all at the disgression of the county, how much they want to pay and so forth.

Rep. Kasper: So the funding from the veterans affairs comes from the county budget, how about the funding for your department where your at and are you adequately funded, do you have funds available to help those counties do better advertising to the veterans in those locations, services that they have available.

Bob: Our funding has been both general fund, funding Post War Trust fund, from the loan program, we have tried for several sessions to say that the Post War Trust fund, and the loan fund dollars are limited and they shouldn't be used run the administrative office, so Governor Hoven

has put those dollars into our budget, as general fund dollars this time, so yes that has helped and that will help if we can get that. Quite frankly there is more we could do, if we had more dollars, but it is going to take time to build that up at this point. We do have two people on staff that are training officers, who we do put out into the counties to help them when they have problems. Are we adequately funded. We need time to build up.

Rep. Conrad: How many counties do not have a Service Officer.

Bob: They all have a county service officer, but there are two service officers that have more than one county.

Rep. Conrad: This language saying that they shall, it is to make sure they continue to have them.

Bob: That is there because, as we see it not only do service officers take care of veterans, but they take care of their dependents and I thought we would not have any more veterans after Viet Nam, we had the Gulf War and now we have this, so we just want to make sure that the apparatus is there, some counties have around 100 veterans left.

Rep. Conrad: If some one is from McHenry county, they can go to Ward county and get the services, they can go into that office and get the services or must they go back to McHenry county?

Bob: There is nothing that requires them to go to their own service officer, however most of them do that and most service officers will accept veterans from other counties.

Rep. Conrad: Should we put a mill levy in there of a half of mill or something to designate, so the county would have the understanding that they are to spend dollars on this.

Bob: There is a mill levy currently in the law 1.25 mill, I believe Rep. Metcalf of Valley City is introducing a bill that will increase that will bring it up to 2 mill, but the counties don't have to levy that.

Rep. Froseth: I am just wondering if that wasn't increased just a half a mill. Your department agency is one that we here from very seldom, during the legislator maybe one or two bill and maybe we lose track of what the State agencies do, we have a bill in the legislature that its time to appropriate bonus money to veterans and so forth from the State, so I imagine there will be money coming from the federal government, is all the money from all those programs channeled through your department?

Bob: No, the bonuses always go through the Adjutant Generals office, one thing, that is a pretty big job to do, we have a staff of six people including myself. There is no way that we could handle it. We work hand and hand we the Adjutant Generals office in various areas with the discharge papers. We have been in contact with Colonel Feelie on numerous occasions, there is communication going on.

Rep. Galvin: You are made aware of veteran service officer because you belong to the American Legion or the VFW, like right now I am sure the veteran service officers, much to their time is taken up with the no drug benefits that they are eligible for, I wondered if their are people that don't belong to these organizations that are falling through the cracks, because they are not aware of the services available, by veteran service officers.

Bob: That is exactly one of the points that was made in the audit, how do and why aren't isn't information gotten out to every veteran and that is what we working on now, to try and get it out

more broadly, we would like to see all of the veterans to know exactly what is available and taking part in it.

Rep. Potter: With the change from may to shall, I am not quite clear what all the implications mean for counties, does it mean they may appoint or they may employee, so changing to shall does it mean, OK you are going to do this now and in the past you haven't and by george your going to do it and you are going to pay them, let me know exactly what that means.

Bob: That is what could happen, but I think what it is now, every county has a service officer in some capacity or another, so we are not required to do any more than what is being done right now. What we are looking at is looking into the future and insuring that everybody that becomes a veteran or their dependents are covered when something happens, because we want to make sure, lets say a county there is no more veterans or dependents in that county, well I think they could have a service officer. We are trying to get more and more young people back and I think there is a great work force out there with the veterans that are coming back, so I see us locating veterans at all counties. We want to make sure there is someone their that they can go to that will help them.

Rep. Conrad: I understand that the counties share at times this person and with this mill levy that the counties can assess, or they do assess it, maybe you can help me with that, that would go into when we actually would pay the person and maybe that is what the shall gets to also and maybe there is someone there that maybe they expect to do it for free or something. I am just not clear on that.

Bob: The documents that I have seen on this is there is a lot of counties who don't levy the maximum mill levy right now and some of the larger counties don't have to because that would

generate a whole lot more money then they would need for there agencies. There are a lot of counties that, quite frankly that don't levy a lot, we just heard of a situation in a county where they hired a person to be county service officer, the person is to work two days a week at minimum wage and that person is to cover a whole county, so this is in the hands of the counties and it is their decision. One of the auditors recommendation that relates to this sorda indicated, maybe, all the county service officers should come under the State Department of Veterans Affairs. I am not here to say that I am proposing that or supporting that, it is proven that it can run well in county and counties pay them and counties do have control of that.

Rep. Conrad: Is there a summary of this audit? Could we have a copy of ?

Bob: We can get to the state auditor and they can make copies available.

Rep. Kasper: The source of the grants and the loans are funded through the Post War Trust Earnings.

Bob: The grants are.

Rep. Kasper: So there is another trust fund.

Bob: Veterans paid loan fund.

Rep. Kasper: Are they controlled by your department, where are they controlled and how much money is in their?

Bob: The loan fund is by law in the Department of Veterans Affairs, it is out of a seven hundred thousand dollar loan fund, that was suppose to be a revolving fund, trust fund throughout time that seven hundred thousand was taken out of the log, trust fund was taken out of the log and the department paid for administrative expenses out of that. Right now that fund has about five hundred thousand dollars, if you include the loans that are outstanding, that are active and then

we have several that are in collections. This loan fund is a fund that is for veterans is the last resort to get money. We don't want to compete with banks, the maximum allowed is five thousand, so that comes out of there and we have control of that. The grant program, the moneys for that comes from Post War Trust Fund earnings, that is a constitutional measure where the administrative committee on Veterans Affairs has the authority on a continuing basis to use that money, for programs that benefit veterans. The department has the program for the grants, we ask them for money, they approve or disapprove of the grant. It has been a good program to help veterans. The interest in that fund obviously fluctuates, the interest rates are not as good. I think the projected earning for this current biennium is around four hundred thousand dollars, for earning for that. On the grant program they also have transportation program that we buy vans for the disabled veterans trust fund, the vans get put out into the counties where they transport veterans to the VA. It also funds the current administrative costs, also.

Rep. Kasper: The amount of money in the Post War Trust Fund is about eight or ten million?

Bob: No it is a four million dollar fund. Roughly four million.

Rep. Klemin: On your performance audit, you say the state auditor made a formal recommendation that Department of Veterans Affairs work with the association of counties and county commissioners to improve county services to veterans by consolidating county veteran service offices. This bill on line seven you shall appoint service officers, this may preclude them from not doing it in the future. Line nine and ten, a person to serve in more than one county, they are doing that now in some cases. I guess I am wondering how this bill really implements the recommendation made by the state auditor that these service offices need to be consolidated, it seems to me what you said, some of these counties are getting pretty token service through the

veterans here and even if they have the authority to fund the position they are choosing not to do that. What is this bill doing to implement this recommendation?

Bob: There is another bill coming, in current law, you really can't supervise if you don't pay, if you don't have that control there and it wasn't being done anyway, so either take that language out, you need some control over the county service offices. The administrative committee has decided to take that language out, put in other language that says that the commissioner will be able to help them and give them recommendations to them on qualifications and so forth. It is a tough situation to be in when you don't have control to hire and fire. We want to make sure that every county has a service officer. They can have one service officer serve more than one county. If you go out into the general population, you say tool chest bill, not many people recognize what that means.

Rep. Klemin: The other bill you are talking about actually, where the current law say you are suppose to supervise it takes that language out? So how does that help this?

Bob: Yes, because there is no way that the department and the commissioner can ever supervise all 53 counties with the size of staff it has with the realities of where the budgets are and maybe that is something to be working on as time goes on.

Rep. Klemin: I don't want any misunderstandings here, I am very supportive of veterans programs and I am a veteran myself, I don't have a problem with this bill, except I don't think it does anything. I am not sure what exactly it would accomplish.

Rep. Kasper: The service officers had three day training seminars and you could tell by talking to them that they were excited about doing their job and this maybe was about ten or eleven years ago when my father would take me to these seminars with him, when he was a service officer,

what has happened. It seemed to me that the training was great, the excitement was great, things were going on and now all of a sudden it appears it was here, what's happened?

Bob: There still are two training sessions a year, one in April and one in September, we are still working on bringing in the best kind of training we can, they brought in actual National Service officers in the September meeting I was involved in, that really ignited a fire in them to do more. We have a group of county service officers that indicate the kind of training that would be beneficial.

Rep. Grande: This bill is not accomplishing what we are trying to do here and I just really quite understand and it just kind of counterdicts what we are trying to do, in that we are in first off make every county have this and then but by the way consolidate and if you want to and I beg to differ on the tool chest law, counties are very aware of the tool chest law and they utilize it, so I don't think that is the issue. Right now if we have this many, we can't supervise them, we can't get the information out, but by the way we are going to make you do it. You have contradicted yourself into what you are trying to do there, so is there a way that we should be doing this, where again we'll go back to what you were talking about, regional direction versus county direction, because we are not going to accomplish it by mandating it, there is no appropriation on this, so we don't have any way that it is going to take place, I think you have created more of a problem then you tried to solve in what the auditor has been asking you to do.

Bob: The general population needs help, if there is a consolidation of counties, I think that would help.

Chairman Haas: If you had 8 veteran service officers would that be a more effective system? Try to make veterans aware, some are reluctant to seek services?

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Bill/Resolution Number 1128
Hearing Date 1/13/05

Bob: Don't want to visit about or talk about themselves, some of them, but we are helping quite a few.

Chairman Haas: Thank you very much. Any more questions?

Daryl E. Beard-Chairman, North Dakota Veterans Home-for-Attached Testimony

Chairman Haas: Thank you very much . Any more questions?

Rep. Kasper: I move a Do Pass on HB 1128.

Rep. Galvin: I second.

Chairman Haas: Is there any more discussion. We will ask the clerk to take roll.

VOTE: YES 13 NO 0 ABSENT 1 PASS DO PASS ON HB 1128

REP. KASPER WILL CARRY THE BILL

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/03/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1128

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.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

To date, all counties have a county veterans service officer. This change ensures veterans throughout North Dakota will always be provided the assistance they need to file for state and federal benefits.

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, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name: Cathy Halgunseth
Phone Number: 701-239-7165

Agency: Veterans Affairs
Date Prepared: 01/06/2005

Date: 1/13/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1128

House House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

DO PASS

Motion Made By

Rep. Kasper

Seconded By

Rep. Galvin

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman C.B. Haas	✓		Rep. Bill Amerman	✓	
Bette B. Grande - Vice Chairman	✓		Rep. Kari Conrad	AB	
Rep. Randy Boehning	✓		Rep. Louise Potter	✓	
Rep. Glen Froseth	✓		Rep. Sally M. Sandvig	✓	
Rep. Pat Galvin	✓				
Rep. Stacey Horter	✓				
Rep. Jim Kasper	✓				
Rep. Lawrence R. Klemin	✓				
Rep. Lisa Meier	✓				
Rep. Margaret Sitte	✓				

Total (Yes)

13

No

0

Absent

1

Floor Assignment

Rep. KAS plk

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 13, 2005 1:06 p.m.

Module No: HR-08-0415
Carrier: Kasper
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1128: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1128 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1128

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **HB 1128**

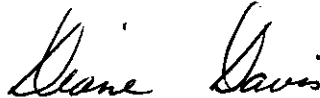
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

Business and Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 24, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	725-2152

Committee Clerk Signature



Chairman Krebsbach opens hearing on **HB 1128**

Relating to appointment of a county veterans' service officer.

(Tape 1, Side B, meter #725)

Bob Hanson - Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs - See attached handout. He said what they have found is that counties do not have to have a Veterans Service Officer and they want to make sure that everyone is served in their counties. All counties need to be represented. They can have service officers that serve more than one county. He talked of a study resolution introduced that says they want a study done by Legislative Council in the interim of how to best use the financial resources of counties and the state to provide the best services to the veterans of this state. He thinks that is a very important piece of this legislation. In support of this bill.

Senator Nelson - Are counties doing it now doing it under tool box or just doing it under nobodies authority.

Hanson - Replied they are probably doing it both ways, but probably under tool chest.

Senator Nelson - Asked about the handout.

Hanson - Explained the handout, what it means for support staff and hours.

Senator Nelson - In some counties they are no regular hours, do they get paid for no regular hours?

Hanson - He said that roughly half the service officers make less than \$500 a month. These people are dealing with extremely confidential records. There is concern with some of them having offices in their houses. Concerned with HIPPA violations.

Senator Lee - Thinks that services need to be provided so there isn't such a long distance that someone would have to travel.

Hanson - Yes, and in areas of consolidation service officers are on call for 24 hours a day. Whenever a veteran needs help they are there.

Senator Krebsbach - Asked if the counties and the service officers have a listing of veterans in their area that are eligible.

Hanson - Said no, most go through Veteran Service organizations. Another thing that came up is that there needs to be more outreach.

(meter #1806)

John Jacobson - Chairman of the Legislative committee - See written testimony - in support of this bill

Closed hearing on HD 1128. - Meter #2152

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Senate Government and Veterans Affairs
Bill/Resolution Number **HB 1128**
Hearing Date February 24, 2005

Senator Syverson moved for a do pass

Senator Nelson seconded

Senator Syverson will carry.

Date: 2/24/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1128

Senate **Government and Veterans Affairs**

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

No Pass

Motion Made By

Senator Syverson

Seconded By

Senator Nelson

Senators
Karen K. Krebsbach, Chairman
Richard L. Brown, Vice Chairman
Judy Lee
John O. Syverson

Yes No

X

X

X

Senators
Carolyn Nelson

Yes No

X

Total (Yes)

4

No

0

Absent

1

Floor Assignment

Senator Syverson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 24, 2005 1:57 p.m.

Module No: SR-34-3608
Carrier: Syverson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1128: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman)
recommends DO PASS (4 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1128
was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1128

Statement – HB 1128
House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee
Bob Hanson, Commissioner
ND Department of Veterans' Affairs
January 13, 2005

Good morning Chairman Haas and committee members. I am Bob Hanson, commissioner of the department of veterans' affairs.

House Bill 1128 was introduced at the request of our department and the administrative committee on veterans' affairs, which is the body that oversees the department.

The bill addresses a concern brought out in the performance audit of our agency by the state auditor this past year.

The state auditors made a formal recommendation that the department of veterans' affairs "work with the Association of Counties and County Commissioners to improve county services to veterans by consolidating County Veterans' Service Officers."

First, this bill requires all counties to have county veterans' service officer. All counties now have a service officer. However, comments have been made suggesting maybe a county could get along without a county veterans' service officer. Obviously, especially at this time in history, we believe veterans' and their dependents need to have ready access to an individual who can assist them obtain the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

Second, this bill makes it clear that an individual can serve as a county veterans' service officer for more than one county. This compliments current law allowing counties to join forces in other areas. There currently are a couple of instances in the state where one individual serves as county veterans' service officer for more than one county.

Veterans are important to the state's economy. North Dakota's veterans generated nearly \$140 million from North Dakota department of veterans' affairs programs for calendar years 2003 and 2004 and the Veterans Administration's programs for 2003 Fiscal Year. It is estimated the VA's programs for North Dakota veterans would bring that total to well over \$275 million for the two year period once their FY 2004 numbers are known. The county veterans' service officers across this state and our staff have played a major role in securing these benefits and services for our veterans and our state (see attached documents.)

Both the department and the administrative committee on veterans' affairs believe this is the proper approach to take at this time to ensure our state's veterans will have the access to a county veterans' service officer they need to help them obtain the services and benefits to which they are entitled regardless of what county they live in.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration and action on HB 1128.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2003

NORTH DAKOTA

Expenditures in \$000

COUNTY	Veteran Population	Total Expenditures	Compensation & Pension	Education & Voc Rehab	Insurance & Indemnities	CNSTR	GOE	VA MEDICAL CARE - FY 2003	
								Total Unique Patients	Medical Expenditures
ADAMS	237	733	270	9	20	-	-	119	433
BARNES	1,126	3,115	1,231	41	97	-	-	407	1,746
BENSON	470	1,378	775	38	42	-	-	144	523
BILLINGS	121	205	106	0	10	-	-	14	89
BOTTINEAU	690	1,455	653	32	59	-	-	216	711
BOWMAN	233	896	240	0	20	-	-	112	635
BURKE	243	457	187	15	21	-	-	87	233
BURLEIGH	6,560	11,202	6,573	574	526	-	-	1,479	3,530
CASS	10,273	36,629	12,916	1,518	823	2,568	2,968	3,667	15,835
CAVALIER	437	1,002	393	0	37	-	-	141	571
DICKEY	473	1,148	522	50	42	-	-	150	534
DIVIDE	255	302	197	2	22	-	-	52	81
DUNN	318	668	350	5	28	-	-	84	285
EDDY	251	697	334	2	22	-	-	85	340
EMMONS	363	1,093	638	3	32	-	-	161	420
FOSTER	289	666	283	18	25	-	-	87	340
GOLDEN VALLEY	184	272	134	0	16	-	-	56	122
GRAND FORKS	6,275	12,951	7,236	1,485	508	-	-	1,399	3,722
GRANT	254	414	207	10	22	-	-	83	175
GRIGGS	258	891	323	9	22	-	-	92	537
HETTINGER	299	352	249	1	26	-	-	32	76
KIDDER	244	488	310	1	22	-	-	72	156
LA MOURE	389	1,217	456	10	34	-	-	132	717
LOGAN	185	302	192	0	16	-	-	69	94
MCHENRY	618	1,292	874	47	54	-	-	171	318
MCINTOSH	268	590	263	12	24	-	-	98	292
MCKENZIE	549	875	493	11	47	-	-	165	324
MCLEAN	935	1,788	1,000	18	83	-	-	295	688
MERCER	815	993	484	33	68	-	-	165	408
MORTON	2,262	5,033	3,688	118	187	-	-	576	1,040
MOUNTRAIL	613	1,596	930	42	55	-	-	179	569
NELSON	428	1,107	407	31	37	-	-	140	632
OLIVER	161	285	186	20	14	-	-	45	65

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2003
NORTH DAKOTA
Expenditures in \$000

COUNTY	Veteran Population	Total Expenditures	Compensation & Pension	Education & Voc Rehab	Insurance & Indemnities	CNSTR	GOE	VA MEDICAL CARE - FY 2003	
								Total Unique Patients	Medical Expenditures
PEMBINA	887	1,533	843	23	75	-	-	283	592
PIERCE	440	915	627	17	38	-	-	134	232
RAMSEY	958	2,591	1,093	18	83	-	-	330	1,398
RANSOM	601	3,367	1,018	14	53	-	-	240	2,282
RENVILLE	309	497	325	11	26	-	-	92	135
RICHLAND	1,334	3,460	1,427	141	114	-	-	384	1,777
ROLETTE	882	1,634	1,225	89	76	-	-	84	244
SARGENT	389	766	363	17	33	-	-	106	352
SHERIDAN	177	190	98	0	15	-	-	61	76
SIoux	311	874	550	10	26	-	-	56	289
SLOPE	55	75	51	10	4	-	-	8	10
STARK	1,947	3,432	1,963	137	164	-	-	575	1,168
STEELE	217	350	261	8	19	-	-	41	82
STUTSMAN	2,009	4,704	2,145	114	173	-	-	567	2,273
TOWNER	267	555	341	11	23	-	-	134	180
TRAIL	813	2,269	1,033	135	71	-	-	245	1,030
WALSH	1,219	2,163	1,200	22	106	-	-	396	835
WARD	5,762	12,864	8,078	1,320	486	-	-	1,513	2,980
WELLS	461	629	372	0	40	-	-	135	217
WILLIAMS	1,991	4,165	1,874	93	163	-	-	565	2,035
TOTAL CONG. DIST (01)	58,087	139,127	67,986	6,343	4,851	2,568	2,968	16,723	54,410
NORTH DAKOTA (Totals)	58,087	139,127	67,986	6,343	4,851	2,568	2,968	16,723	54,410

Notes:

* Estimated veteran population as of September 30, 2003. Data from Office of the Actuary, Department of Veterans Affairs.
The count of unique patients includes non-veterans who received medical care at the VA.
Medical expenditures represent cost assigned to each patient based on services provided and overhead distribution.
Congressional Districts are for the 108th Congress.
CNSTR - Construction; GOE - General Operating Expenses

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Approved and Disapproved Grants by County
2003-2004

County	For year ending December 2004			For year ending December 2003		
	App.	Amount	Dis	App.	Amount	Dis
Adams	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Barnes	1	\$236.00	0	1	\$225.00	0
Benson	5	\$2,500.00	0	3	\$1,199.00	1
Billings	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Bismarck DVA	5	\$2,500.00	0	4	\$1,030.50	0
Bottineau	2	\$750.00	1	1	\$400.00	0
Bowman	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Burke	2	\$500.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Burleigh	48	\$19,435.00	10	37	\$10,564.99	5
Cass	35	\$13,188.46	3	39	\$10,934.53	1
Cavalier	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Dickey	2	\$750.00	0	1	\$448.00	0
Divide	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Dunn	0	\$0.00	0	4	\$1,424.00	1
Eddy	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Emmons	4	\$1,500.00	0	3	\$1,150.00	0
Fargo DVA	6	\$2,750.00	1	5	\$1,740.40	0
Foster	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Golden Valley	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Grand Forks	4	\$1,460.00	0	4	\$880.99	2
Grant	2	\$1,250.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Griggs	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Hettinger	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Kidder	1	\$750.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
LaMoure	1	\$250.00	0	0	\$0.00	1
Logan	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
McHenry	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
McIntosh	2	\$750.00	0	9	\$2,394.00	0
McKenzie	7	\$2,875.00	0	15	\$4,239.00	2
McLean	3	\$1,750.00	0	2	\$146.00	0
Mercer	1	\$500.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Morton	22	\$7,524.00	5	18	\$5,880.75	4
Mountrail	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Nelson	4	\$1,500.00	1	3	\$897.00	1
Oliver	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Pembina	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Pierce	2	\$684.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Ramsey	2	\$1,000.00	0	6	\$1,842.00	0
Ransom	10	\$4,750.00	0	22	\$6,317.00	2
Renville	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Richland	7	\$2,365.00	3	2	\$1,000.00	1
Rolette	1	\$250.00	0	0	\$0.00	1
Sargent	1	\$500.00	0	1	\$65.00	0
Sheridan	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Sioux	0	\$0.00	1	0	\$0.00	0
Slope	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Standing Rock Tribe	0	\$0.00	0	3	\$231.00	0
Stark	17	\$6,500.00	3	10	\$2,759.00	0
Steele	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0
Stutsman	27	\$10,650.00	5	22	\$6,235.00	3
Three Affiliated Tribes	0	\$0.00	0	2	\$454.00	1
Towner	4	\$2,500.00	0	4	\$537.50	0
Trall	9	\$3,050.00	0	6	\$2,086.00	0
Walsh	1	\$500.00	0	2	\$1,000.00	0
Ward	5	\$2,500.00	2	8	\$3,118.65	2
Wells	1	\$500.00	1	0	\$0.00	0
Williams	2	\$637.00	2	9	\$2,064.00	1
Totals	246	\$99,104.46	38	246	\$71,263.31	29

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Approved and Disapproved
Loans by County
2003-2004

County	For year ending December 31, 2004			For year ending December 31, 2003		
	App.	Amount	Dis	App.	Amount	Dis
Adams	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Barnes	0	\$0	1	2	\$10,000	0
Benson	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Billings	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Bismarck DVA	3	\$11,266	1	6	\$21,500	3
Bottineau	2	\$7,000	0	0	\$0	0
Bowman	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Burke	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Burleigh	5	\$18,664	8	4	\$16,700	7
Cass	11	\$28,486	7	13	\$45,400	7
Cavalier	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Dickey	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Divide	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Dunn	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Eddy	1	\$1,800	1	0	\$0	0
Emmons	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Fargo DVA	7	\$19,124	2	9	\$31,500	0
Foster	1	\$5,000	1	2	\$10,000	0
Golden Valley	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Grand Forks	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Grant	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Griggs	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Hettinger	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Kidder	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	0
LaMoure	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1
Logan	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
McHenry	0	\$0	0	1	\$3,700	0
McIntosh	0	\$0	0	1	\$5,000	0
McKenzie	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
McLean	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0
Mercer	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Morton	0	\$0	0	2	\$2,400	1
Mountrail	3	\$13,000	0	1	\$5,000	0
Nelson	2	\$10,000	0	0	\$0	1
Oliver	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Pembina	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	0
Pierce	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Ramsey	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Ransom	1	\$1,000	0	1	\$1,000	1
Renville	1	\$1,500	0	0	\$0	0
Richland	1	\$1,000	1	2	\$6,500	2
Rolette	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1
Sargent	0	\$0	1	2	\$10,000	1
Sheridan	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Sioux	3	\$12,000	1	2	\$10,000	1
Slope	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Spirit Lake Nation	1	\$2,000	0	0	\$0	0
Standing Rock Tribe	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Stark	1	\$400	2	1	\$800	0
Steele	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Stutsman	2	\$5,000	0	1	\$5,000	2
Three Affiliated Tribes	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Towner	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0
Trails	1	\$3,000	0	1	\$5,000	0
Walsh	3	\$7,000	0	2	\$5,800	1
Ward	2	\$6,500	4	1	\$2,500	6
Wells	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0
Williams	1	\$1,500	0	4	\$15,700	1
Totals	54	\$165,240	32	58	\$213,500	36

**NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY BY: DARYL E. BEARD, CHAIRMAN, NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS HOME
January 13,2005**

Chairman Hass and members of the Government and Veterans Affaire Committee, I am Daryl Beard, member of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs and Chairman, North Dakota Veterans Home Governing Board.

There are over 58,000 veterans in the state of North Dakota. These veterans receive over 79 million dollars in compensation, pension, education and rehabilitation from federal sources. These benefits start with county veteran service officers. Without these service officers veterans do not have proper access to these federal benefits.

Recently the veterans of one county had the county commissioners decide that they did not need or could not afford a county veterans service officer. This is unacceptable to the veterans of the state of North Dakota and to the veterans of this county.

Since the mill levy is capped many counties are having trouble finding a qualified county veteran service officer. The sharing of county veteran service officers should be encouraged in sparsely populated counties as many have no offices and no posted office hours.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try answer any questions.

19, 2005

BRANCH OFFICE
1929 N. Washington
Bismarck ND 58507
TEL: 701-328-5465 FAX 701-328-5468

#	COUNTY	SERVICE OFFICER	MAILING ADDRESS	HOURS	TELEPHONE			FY03 VET POP
					WORK	HOME	FAX	
01	ADAMS	Arnold K. Scott arnie@pop.ctcfel.com	Box 686	Heitinger 58639 No Regular Hours	567-4283	567-2910		251
02	BARNES	James T. Drong jdrong@co.barnes.nd.us	230 4th St NW, Room 103	Valley City 58072 M-F, 8-5	845-8511	646-6561	845-8590	1,229
03	BENSON	Jo Dahlen jcdahlen@state.nd.us	Box 52	Minnewaukan 58351 W & Fri 8:4:30 Or 473-5324 ext. 3	473-5451	473-5339	473-5571	526
04	BILLINGS	Roy A. Basaraba	2123 Highway 85 SW	Belfield 58622 M-F, 8-5	575-4948			125
05	BOITTNEAU	Dwight Nahinurk nahinurk@ndak.net	411 Main Street Memorial Building	Bottineau 58318 M & W 9-3	228-3904	263-4700	228-3904	750
06	BOWMAN	Patricia Ann Sadowsky sadowsky@pop.ctcfel.com	Box 3	Bowman 58623 No regular hours	523-5512	523-5443		254
07	BURKE	Allen Ryberg bowins@ncray.com	Box 10	Bowbells 58721 M-F, 9-4 On call remaining days	377-2739	377-2813	377-2799	262
08	BURLEIGH	Mark Landis mlandis@state.nd.us Cindy Munsch cmunsch@state.nd.us Joyce Hochhalter jhochhal@state.nd.us	Box 5518 221 N 5th St	Bismarck 58506-5518 M-F, 8-5	222-6698	663-2747	222-6420	6,650
09	CASS	James Brent Brent@co.cass.nd.us Chanelle B. Lende (241-5745) lende@co.cass.nd.us Mike Vandrovec (241-5741) vandrovecm@co.cass.nd.us	P. O. Box 2806 1010 2nd Ave S	Fargo 58108 M-F, 8-5—Government Annex	241-5746	298-9369	239-6751	10,414
10	CAVALIER	Anna Spivey aspivey@state.nd.us	901 3rd St	Langdon 58249 Tues & Wed—9-12, by appt.	256-2146	256-2867	256-2566	474
11	DICKEY	Steve C. Frojen	Box 388 309 2nd Avenue	Oakes 58474-0388 Ellendale Oakes—1-5:00 M-T, TH-F Ellendale—Wed 1:00-5	742-2223	742-2502	349-3249 Ext. *830	535
12	DIVIDE	Roman Fetting roman.fetting@sendit.nodak.edu	Box 143	Crosby 58730 Flexible	694-2711	965-6948	965-6943	277
13	DUNN	Irene Nelson inelson@state.nd.us	Box 130	Dickinson 58602-0130 M-F, 8-5—Courthouse	456-7654	227-1244	456-7628	359
14	EDDY	Alfred Ritzke, Jr. ajritzke@stellarnet.com	208 3rd Ave S	New Rockford 58356 No regular hours	947-2384			273
15	EMMONS	Alex Ohlhauser	500 Schley Ave W	Linton 58552 M & T, 8-4:30 W, 8-12	254-5410	254-4814	254-4012	405
16	FOSTER	Wally Purcell wpurcell@state.nd.us	Courthouse, PO Box 80	Carrington 58421 Wed, 9-11:30 Thu, 12:30-4:30pm	652-2170	652-1340	652-2173	311

January 19

COUNTY	SERVICE OFFICER	MAILING ADDRESS	HOURS	TELEPHONE WORK	HOME	FAX	FY03 VET POP
17 GOLDEN VALLEY	Irene Nelson	Sarah Galster Box 130	Dickinson 58602-0130 M-F, 8-5-Courthouse	456-7654	227-1244	456-7634	204
18 GRAND FORKS	Thomas M. Saddle Tom.Saddler@gfcounty.com	Cathy Westensee Cathy.Westensee@gfcounty.com Peggy Kochler Box 5547	Grand Forks 58206 M-F, 8-5 County Office Bldg.	780-8296	795-7062	787-8603	6,423
19 GRANT	Jack Heyne jheyne@state.nd.us	none Courthouse, Box 48	T, W & Th, 1-4	622-3693	622-3098		279
20 GRIGGS	Robert Messner	none Box 32 Courthouse	Every 2 nd & 4 th Thursday, 9-12 on call other days	797-3717	676-2720		284
21 HETTINGER	Lowell G. Prince	Marlys Prince Box 211	No regular hours	563-4542		563-4519	331
22 KIDDER	A. G. Skip Thomas agthomas@state.nd.us	none Box 225	Mon 9-5	475-2632 ext. 7	475-2132		274
23 LaMOURE	Michial Johnson mjohnso@state.nd.us	none 202 4th Ave NE, Box 128	M-F, 9-5	883-5301	883-4274	883-4220	430
24 LOGAN	James J. Hilzendege jhilzend@state.nd.us	none 301 Bdwy, PO Box 38	M-F, 8:30-4:30 - Courthouse	754-2239	754-2911	754-2270	203
25 McHENRY	Francis R. Hoynes redhoyn@srt.com	none Box 93	Wed 9-11; 1-3 On call other days	537-5724	537-5782		681
26 McINTOSH	L. Pete Keaveny pam@bektel.com	none 23 N 6th Street P. O. Box 707	No regular hours Ashley 2 nd Fri, 9-3	452-4228 cell phone: 321-1267			300
27 McKENZIE	Jerry Samuelson jsamuelson@4eyes.net	none Box 1036	M-F, 8-5	444-6853		444-4113	598
28 McLEAN	Todd Schreiner tschreiner@state.nd.us	none Box 1108	M-F, 8-4:30	462-8541 ext. 235		462-3542	1,049
29 MERCER	Gerald Beck	none PO Box 39 Courthouse	M & T, 7-3	745-3392	948-2494	745-3579	860
30 MORTON	Ronald Otto rotto@state.nd.us	Lucille Rova 210 2nd Ave NW	M-F, 8-5 Courthouse	667-3365	663-7921	667-3284	2,370
31 MOUNTRAIL	Gene H. "Skip" Wing ghw@midstatel.com	Lisa Lapica 120 S Main St PO Box 421	M-F, 8:30-5:00	628-2063	628-2137	628-3063	693
32 NELSON	Trish Hodny phodny@state.nd.us	none 210 B Avenue W, Ste 202	1 st 3 rd & 4 th Wed-Courthouse, 9-4:30 2 nd Wednesday, 9:00-noon - Courthouse 1-4:30 - McVile Firehouse Community Room	247-2531	247-3301	247-2412	468
33 OLIVER	Ronald Otto	none PO Box 188	2 nd Tuesday, 8:30-4 Courthouse	794-3404			175
34 PEMBINA	Ronald Berg ronberg@state.nd.us	none 308 Courthouse Dr #11	Tues, Wed 9-5, Thurs 9-1 M & F-on call	265-4460	257-6617	265-4228	950
35 PIERCE	Dwight Liming	Bertha Liming 309 3rd Street SW	Mon - Courthouse, 8-5	776-6178	776-680	76-5707	487

January 8, 2005

COUNTY	SERVICE OFFICER	MAILING ADDRESS	HOURS	TELEPHONE WORK HOME	FY03 VET POP
36 RAMSEY	Earl H. Hanson ehanson@gondtc.com	524 4th Avenue #17 Devils Lake 58301	Monday 8-5, Tues & Wed 8-1 Answering Machine other days	662-7048 662-3504 662-7092	1,051
37 RANSOM	Tom McKinnon tmckinnon@state.nd.us	P. O. Box 830 Courthouse	W & Th 8:30-5:00 (Ext. 126)683-5823	683-5827	672
38 RENVILLE	William Allen dandba@srt.com	Box 481	M-F, 1-5	756-6403 756-6391	330
39 RICHLAND	William B. Peschel bpeschel@pioneer.state.nd.us	418 2nd Avenue N.	M-F, 8-5 Courthouse	642-7807 642-2714 642-7808 cell phone: 701-640-1398	1,444
40 ROLETTE	Beryl Rogers	Box 939	Wed, 11-3	477-5265 477-3677 477-6339	959
41 SARGENT	Norman E. Preble npreble@state.nd.us	P.O. Box 177	T-W-Th, 9-12 & 12:30-4:30	724-6241 724-6335 724-6244 Ext. 8	417
42 SHERIDAN	Paul E. Stober	1651 7th St N.E.	No regular hours	884-2658	192
43 SIOUX	Giles Heinen	Box L	Monday, 9-1	854-3424 422-3493 854-3854	332
44 SLOPE	Alvin B. Rotering	13607 61 ST St. SW	Anytime	879-6292	52
45 STARK	Irene Nelson inelson@state.nd.us	Box 130	M-F, 8-5--Courthouse	456-7654 227-1244 456-7634	2,079
46 STEELE	Dennis Kubischta summersharvest@invisimax.com	R.R. 1, Box 35	Anytime	945-2623 945-2597	242
47 STUTSMAN	Warren Tobin wtobin@state.nd.us	205 6th St SE, LEC	M-F, 8-5	252-9043 252-7087	2,187
48 TOWNER	John R. "Jack" Freund	Box 279	Tue, Wed & Thurs 9-5	968-4363 968-3840 968-4367	285
49 TRAILL	Melbourne L. Johnson mejohanson@state.nd.us	Box 785	T&W 8-4:30, Th 1-4:30 Crths Thursday 8:30 - 11:30	636-4414 636-4911 636-5418 788-2166	893
50 WALSH	Brendan J. Brazil walshvso@state.nd.us	638 Cooper Avenue	M 8-4:30 T, W & TH 8-Noon	352-5030 248-3931 352-5072	1,343
51 WARD	Dale E. Braun wardvets@yahoo.com	P. O. Box 5005 cindyfeifer@hotmail.com	M-F, 8-4:30	857-6490 852-9588 857-6491	6,154
52 WELLS	Dean E. Johnson djohnso7@amfam.com	713 Lincoln Avenue	M-F, 9-5	324-2888 324-4120	512
53 WILLIAMS	Robert Evans bobe@co.williams.nd.us	Box 2047 helena@co.williams.nd.us	M-F, 8-5:00 Courthouse	577-4550 572-9187 577-4549	2,067
TRIBAL SERVICE OFFICERS					
FORT BERTHOLD	Thomas Crowsheart Sr.	404 Frontage Road	M-F, 8-4:30	627-4781 627-4395 627-3805 Ext. 8336	61,365
Three Affiliated Tribes	tcrowsheart@mhanation.com jbear@mhanation.com				
FORT TOTTEN - vacant					
STANDING ROCK	Wenelle F. Veit wenelle@hotmail.com	PO Box D	M-F, 8-4:30	854-2077 1-877-382-8633	

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS AFFAIRS

Bob Hanson, Commissioner
behanson@state.nd.us

Cathy Halgunseth
chalguns@state.nd.us

Ross DeSautel
VSDeSautel@vba.va.gov

Gene Kouba
gkouba@state.nd.us

Katie Potts
kmppotts@state.nd.us

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

American Legion - Jim Deremo
adjutant@ndlegion.org
451-4646

AMVETS - Dan Dewey
vsofaramddewey@vba.va.gov
451-4642

V.F.W. - Dale Ronning
vfwdrnn@vba.va.gov
451-4634

D.A.V. - Greg Seurer
vsogseur@vba.va.gov
451-4636

MNDVA & AL - Roger Bengston
dvarbeng@vba.va.gov
451-4641

VA REGIONAL OFFICE - TOLL FREE: 1-800-827-1000 access code 13701

FARGO VA HOSPITAL: 701-232-3241
TOLL FREE: 1-800-410-9723

ND VETERANS HOME: 701-683-6500

NORTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - TOLL FREE: 1-866-634-8387

Website: www.state.nd.us/veterans

North Dakota Veteran's Coordinating Council

My name is John L. Jacobsen. I am the chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. I am a member of both the VFW and the American Legion. I am also a member of the VFW National Legislative Committee. We work directly with our Members of Congress on legislation at the national level.

The NDVCC membership is comprised of 15 members representing the five (5) veterans' organizations in the state. (3 from each organization) They are:

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

These organizations represent approximately 61,000 veterans currently living in North Dakota.

I am a member of the Legislative Committee of the NDVCC. I am not a member of the NDVCC but report directly to them. In order for the Legislative Committee to support any bill brought up before our Legislature, concurrence must be unanimous, that is all 15 members must agree that we should support the bill. A single negative response will kill our support.

I have been instructed to ask you to support this bill.
Thank you.

1128
Q 1355