

SENATE BILL NO. 2146

Introduced by

Senators Lyson, Syverson, Tallackson

Representatives Martinson, Maragos, Aarsvold

(At the request of the Adjutant General)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide adjusted compensation for eligible resident veterans and for the
2 filing and payment of claims, duties of the adjutant general, and exemption from taxation and
3 execution for such payments; to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. Statement of public purpose.** In order to ease the financial hardships
6 and personal and family sacrifice sustained by those North Dakota members of the national
7 guard, reserve, and active duty component who were mobilized after December 5, 1992, in
8 support of military operations around the world it is the intent of the legislative assembly that
9 additional compensation be provided to those resident veterans of North Dakota and payment
10 of that compensation is declared to be a public purpose. It is the further intent of the legislative
11 assembly to encourage those North Dakota resident veterans to continue their voluntary
12 membership in the national guard, reserve component, and active military force.

13 **SECTION 2. Definitions.** As used in this Act:

- 14 1. "Adjutant general" means the adjutant general of North Dakota.
- 15 2. "Beneficiary" in relation to a deceased veteran, means, in the order named:
- 16 a. The surviving unremarried husband or wife as of the date of signing the
17 application;
- 18 b. The surviving child or children and the lawful issue of a deceased child or
19 children by right of representation;
- 20 c. The surviving person standing in loco parentis; or
- 21 d. The surviving parent or parents.
- 22 3. "Domestic service" means service by a veteran during the period of service which
23 is no foreign service.

- 1 4. "Foreign service" means service by a veteran after December 5, 1992, for which
2 the veteran received an armed forces expeditionary medal or campaign badge.
- 3 5. "Honorable and faithful" means service evidenced by:
4 a. An honorable discharge, or its equivalent;
5 b. In the case of an officer, a certificate of service; and
6 c. In the case of a veteran who has not been discharged, a certificate from the
7 appropriate service authority that the veteran's service was honorable and
8 faithful.
- 9 6. "Period of service" means the period of time beginning December 5, 1992, and
10 ending June 30, 2007.
- 11 7. "Resident" means a person who has filed a North Dakota income tax return for the
12 year prior to making application for benefits under this section and who:
13 a. Was born in and lived in the state of North Dakota until entrance into the
14 armed forces of the United States;
15 b. Was born in, but was temporarily living outside the state of North Dakota, not
16 having abandoned North Dakota residence at the time of entrance into the
17 armed forces of the United States; or
18 c. Was born elsewhere but had resided within the state of North Dakota for the
19 last six months before entrance into military service and had prior to or during
20 that six-month period:
21 (1) Voted in the state of North Dakota;
22 (2) Was an emancipated minor during such period of residence or had
23 lived with a parent or person standing in loco parentis who was a
24 resident; or
25 (3) Was not registered for voting in another state after being a resident.
- 26 d. "Resident" also means a veteran who was a bona fide resident of the state of
27 North Dakota at the time of entering the armed forces, as determined under
28 the rules of the adjutant general and the laws of this state.
- 29 8. "Veteran" means a member of the national guard or reserve component who was
30 activated under 10 U.S.C 12302 and who completed honorable and faithful service
31 of more than thirty days on active duty in the armed forces of the United States at

1 any time during the period of service, or active component member awarded the
2 expeditionary medal or campaign badge for service after December 5, 1992, who
3 was a resident of the state of North Dakota, and who has not received bonus or
4 adjusted compensation from another state for the period of service.

5 **SECTION 3. Payment of adjusted compensation for domestic and foreign service.**

6 Each national guard or reserve component resident veteran mobilized stateside is entitled to
7 fifty dollars for each month or major fraction thereof for domestic service, not to exceed nine
8 hundred dollars. Each national guard, reserve, or active component resident veteran of foreign
9 service who received the expeditionary medal or campaign badge is entitled to one hundred
10 dollars for each month or major fraction thereof, not to exceed one thousand eight hundred
11 dollars. Combined totals for stateside and foreign service may not exceed one thousand eight
12 hundred dollars. If the veteran received a purple heart for foreign service, the veteran is entitled
13 to a payment of two thousand five hundred dollars in lieu of monthly payments for adjusted
14 compensation. If the veteran is deceased, the veteran's beneficiary is entitled to any payments
15 under this Act to which the veteran would have been entitled. Applications for adjusted
16 compensation may be filed with the adjutant general through June 30, 2007, or in the case of a
17 soldier mobilized on June 30, 2007, not later than six months after the end of the mobilization
18 period of service.

19 **SECTION 4. Payment to beneficiary of veteran who died in active service.** In the
20 case of a veteran who died as a result of active service during the period of service, the
21 beneficiary of such veteran is entitled to a payment of two thousand five hundred dollars in lieu
22 of any other compensation under this Act.

23 **SECTION 5. Application.** Each veteran or veteran's beneficiary entitled to payment
24 under this Act shall make application to the adjutant general of the state of North Dakota upon a
25 form prescribed by the adjutant general. If the veteran is incompetent or the veteran's
26 beneficiary is incompetent or a minor, application may be made by the guardian of the veteran
27 or beneficiary, and if there is no guardian, the person determined by the adjutant general to
28 have assumed the major responsibility for the care of the veteran or beneficiary and to be a
29 proper person to receive payment for the veteran or beneficiary may make the application. If a
30 veteran is hospitalized in a state, county, or federal institution and no application has otherwise
31 been approved by the adjutant general, the person in charge of such institution may make the

1 application with the approval of the adjutant general. For purposes of this section, the word
2 "minor" does not include the unremarried spouse of a veteran. Each application must be
3 accompanied by a certified copy of honorable discharge or other evidence of honorable and
4 faithful service. Each application must be subscribed and sworn to by the applicant in such
5 manner as may be prescribed by the adjutant general. The adjutant general shall provide by
6 rule for an endorsement of the evidence of honorable and faithful service if application for
7 payment has been made.

8 **SECTION 6. Method of payment - Deduction of sums due veterans' aid fund.**

9 Upon submission of satisfactory proof that the applicant is entitled to payment under this Act,
10 the adjutant general shall compute the amount of payment due the applicant, make a record
11 thereof, and forward a voucher for the payment to the office of management and budget, which
12 shall cause the warrant-check to be issued for the amount of the claim. Payment must be
13 made from funds appropriated by the legislative assembly. If the veteran or the applicant for
14 payment under this Act is indebted to the veterans' aid fund of the state of North Dakota, the
15 adjutant general shall determine the amount of such indebtedness and certify such
16 determination to the office of management and budget together with the record of payment due.
17 Within the limits of the payment due, the amount of such indebtedness must be paid to the
18 veterans' aid fund and the applicant must be paid any remainder to which the veteran is
19 entitled.

20 **SECTION 7. Payments exempt from taxation and from execution - Assignments**

21 **void - Debts to state and political subdivisions not deducted.** Payments under this Act are
22 exempt from all state and local taxes and from levy, garnishment, attachment, and sale on
23 execution. Any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer of any right, claim, or interest in
24 any claim or payment under this Act is void and payment to the veteran may not be denied
25 because of any sums owed to the state or any political subdivisions, except as provided in
26 section 37-26-05.

27 **SECTION 8. Duty of adjutant general - Finality of decisions - Questions of**

28 **residence subject to court review.** The adjutant general shall administer this Act. The
29 adjutant general shall prepare and distribute application blanks and investigate all claims and
30 applications filed. If the adjutant general is satisfied of the proof of a claim and application, the
31 adjutant general shall approve and direct payment of the claim. The adjutant general may

1 adopt any rules necessary to the efficient administration of this Act. The necessary books,
2 papers, records, cases, and equipment used in the administration of this Act become a part of
3 the permanent records of the office of the adjutant general. The adjutant general may
4 determine any claim in any case if doubt arises as to the eligibility of an applicant to receive
5 payment and the decision of the adjutant general in such case is final, except on questions of
6 residence which are subject to review by a court of competent jurisdiction. The adjutant general
7 shall authorize payment for prisoners of war upon their release and return.

8 **SECTION 9. Penalty for false statement.** Any person who willfully makes a false
9 statement in the application for benefits under this Act is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

10 **SECTION 10. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.