

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1057

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Public Safety Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to department of veterans' affairs employees; to amend and reenact
3 section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to county veterans' service
4 officers; and to provide an appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **37-14-18. County veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.** The board of
9 county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota shall appoint, employ, and
10 pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a county veterans' service
11 officer. An individual may serve as a county veterans' service officer in more than one county.
12 The appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of veterans' affairs,
13 and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section 37-19.1-02. The county
14 veterans' service officer must maintain accreditation by the department of veterans' affairs
15 within two years of appointment. It is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to become
16 acquainted with the laws, both state and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning
17 servicemen and servicewomen to assist such returning members of the armed forces in the
18 presentation, proof, and establishment of such claims, privileges, and rights as they have. It
19 also is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to actively cooperate with and to
20 coordinate the activities of the state and federal agencies within the county which the officer
21 serves to facilitate their operation and ensure promptness in the solution of the problems
22 concerned with the reestablishment of returning servicemen and servicewomen in civilian
23 pursuits.

1 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 created and enacted as follows:

3 **Department of veterans' affairs employees - Conservatorship activities**
4 **prohibited.** An employee of the department of veterans' affairs may not serve as a
5 conservator for a person receiving benefits or services from the department.

6 **SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - TRAINING POSITIONS.**
7 The commissioner of veterans' affairs may use up to two of the department of veterans' affairs'
8 existing full-time equivalent positions as training officers for the biennium beginning July 1,
9 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.

10 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
11 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$20,000, or so much
12 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of
13 arranging for department of veterans' affairs accreditation training for all county veterans'
14 service officers in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.