

2011 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1177

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1177

January 20, 2011

13166 (First Set of Minutes)

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Provide an appropriation to the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs for stand down events

Minutes:

Chairman Bette Grande opened the hearing on HB 1177. Rep. DeKrey was unable to come down due his testifying on another committee.

Lyle Schuchard, Chairperson, ND Administrative Committee on Veterans' Affairs, appeared in support. He handed out a poster that he had from a stand down in Bismarck last year that the law intern made a copies of and gave to committee members. Then he gave his testimony. **Attachment 1.**

Chairman Bette Grande: For clarification, when you are doing these stand downs and you talk about the homeless, we are looking also for really just that whole destitute group so that the CVOs can have best effort to stay in touch with them, to be able to work with them, not just on a one day thing but through the process of bringing them along. Is that not really an ultimate goal?

Lyle Schuchard: That is the goal and there is follow up like the county veteran services offices. Ron Otto and Mark Landeis are there from Burleigh County and Morton County. They had their computers there. They will get you online and if you are eligible, they will sign you up. They will follow up with you and make sure you get the help you need. The homeless shelters follow up with you. Many agencies do. That is what it is all about. You are right.

Chairman Bette Grande: If you look down this list, you will see that there are a lot of government and medical agencies. You will also see JC Penney's and some others. There are a lot of donations that go towards this. There is the outreach to the communities for the awareness. It is just not awareness to find your destitute veteran out there but you are also involving the community in to seeing and finding out exactly what is going on. We want to expand this program out to reach out to all the corners of the state and find out where our veterans are.

Rep. Bill Amerman: In your testimony you said this stand down used to be supported by the post war trust fund but those funds weren't available so you had to get this grant. Why weren't the funds available?

Lyle Schuchard: When the market down, our fund lost a lot of money. I think we were close to \$5 million in that fund at one time, and we had plenty of money to fund all of our grants and our programs. We could buy hearing aids, glasses, and dentures for our veterans. When the fund went south, we had to cut back on those programs. We cut back on a number of programs that we funded. We had \$10,000 we funded if a veteran was sued for veteran's preference and had a case. We would give up to \$10,000 to help them to resolve that. The other thing that we funded was stand downs. We would get up to \$5,000 from the post war trust fund to run the stand down.

Rep. Bill Amerman: Who administers the fund and do you know how the fund stands at this time?

Lyle Schuchard: Right now, the 4.1 million is the principal. That has to stay there. You can't spend into that. We are getting \$200,000 per biennium at \$25,000 a quarter to fund all our programs. The Treasurer's Office has been able to give us those funds right now. She said if the funds ever accumulate more through interest investments that she could give us more money, she would that. So far we have not been able to get additional funds. What we are getting is the \$200,000 and we are covering the basics with that.

Rep. Karen Rohr: I am a healthcare provider. We get lots of emails and information on veterans that are lost. Families are looking for them. I noticed this first stand down was held in San Diego, so when you put all this information in your databases, is this shared on a nationwide basis?

Lyle Schuchard: I do not believe our information is shared on a national basis. I do not know if there is an agency at a national level that collects all that information. I can find out. If there is, we certainly would want to get on that database and make sure our information is plugged into the national.

Rep. Karen Rohr: Just as a sideline on that. I have actually seen them as patients that they are even looking for their family.

Lyle Schuchard: We have never had that. One of the things we see—you know we call this homeless, but anybody that walks through the door that had a problem, we will provide assistance. What we find is trying to determine the number of homeless, because a lot of them don't want to admit that. Last fall we had somebody that went out to his car. He had a little rundown car packed full of clothes. We thought he was coming back and getting clothes, because we give clothing, \$60,000-\$70,000 worth of clothing we bring in from the government. We thought he was coming back time after time and loading up his car, so we walked over and talked to him. No he wasn't. He was living in his car. He would not put homeless on his sheet because he is embarrassed to do that.

Rep. Glen Froseth: I see in your testimony, you have a list of providers. It seems to me a program like this should be an excellent opportunity for some corporate sponsors to take

hold of and get publicity. Have you ever looked into trying to find corporate sponsors to sponsor these stand downs in various communities?

Lyle Schuchard: We have not. Right now when you go out and try and get money from companies and businesses, everybody is knocking at their door. We have tried to round up money to buy a van. We are going to have to replace vans, and that came out of the post war trust fund. We go to the Ford Motor Company to see if we can get a van donated or at least a very reduced price.

Rep. Lonny Winrich: Are you familiar with a program called Homeless Connect?

Lyle Schuchard: There is a homeless coalition. Last year we had our stand down combined with the homeless. We had both of them at the Am Vets. We had the homeless coalition upstairs and the veterans was downstairs. It got to be so big that we couldn't have it together the next year. We had to split off again. They loaded that one floor up with the same kind of sponsors and help that we did for the homeless. I think at that one there was between 700 and 800 people that came through the door.

Rep. Lonny Winrich: We have had several of them in Grand Forks too. I think the veterans' organizations have participated and helped but it is not limited to veterans.

Lyle Schuchard: Yes and it wasn't that day. It was both. Just a point, if it wasn't for the volunteers, we couldn't run these programs. There are costs there. You have to pay for the building. You have to pay for the food. We give them a noon lunch. That is probably \$2,000 right there. We have to have some security there. We probably have 30 or better volunteers that come in and really make this thing run for us.

There was no one neutral or in opposition to this bill.

The hearing was closed.

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
January 20, 2011
13166 (Second Set of Minutes)

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Provide an appropriation to the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs for stand down events

Minutes:

Chairman Bette Grande reopened the hearing on HB 1177.

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, appeared. **Attachment 1.**

Chairman Bette Grande: For clarification, this bill that we have in front of us asking for the \$40,000, that will be a seed money that is there so when Dickinson wants to start doing the same as the way Fargo is doing it, they may incur somewhere \$4,000 to \$10,000 in cost, and they would be able to receipt that back to you? Eventually, after they have done two or three of them they would end up in the situation like Fargo where it does not require any money since it is all done now on donation basis.

Lonnie Wangen: That is correct. That is our goal to just get them started so they can be self sufficient as soon as possible.

Chairman Bette Grande: Stand downs don't necessarily have that bigger cost once community becomes involved?

Lonnie Wangen: That is correct. When the federal VA gets involved and starts providing more and more, it does help a lot. What we have had in the past, the meals and all that are usually covered, but sometimes you have to pay some vendors to come in to provide the service or purchase things you are going to give them. Down the road those start to be fundraisers that take care of that or else people donate them. Then they are self sufficient.

Rep. Lisa Meier: How many times a year does Bismarck actually have these stand down events and Fargo as well?

Lonnie Wangen: I am not sure in Bismarck. Fargo has two. They usually have a spring and a fall. It is important to do the fall one because winter is coming and we want to give them the good clothing and get them into housing.

Lyle Schuchard: We have had one every year for six years. We have one a year. As far as the cost goes for that stand down, we have been getting money from the outside for each one of those. We have not been able to get enough money locally to fund our stand down.

Rep. Lisa Meier: About how many individual veterans come to these events?

Lonnie Wangen: I believe the count that we had with Bismarck was 245. The Fargo one I did not get the count of the last one. I was at that one myself, and there had to have been over 300.

Rep. Karen Karls: You had a statistic on suicide. I didn't get the number. Could you repeat that?

Lonnie Wangen: According to Vital Records in North Dakota, since 2006 the death certificates that showed military service, there were 75. Percentage wise 2007 was probably the worst. We had 30% of the suicides in the state were veterans.

Chairman Bette Grande: Treasurer's Office, we had some questions that came up off of testimony and I would like to allow you to address those.

Rep. Bill Amerman: What kind of situation is the post war trust fund in now? Is it coming back or how are we looking on that?

Carlee McLeod, State Treasurer's Office: First, I would like to address the premise of that question. It is true that the post war trust fund did suffer some losses during that period where all trust funds across the nation dropped. We actually did quite well in comparison to similar trust funds across the country. By quite well, most suffered a 30-35% drop, and we were in between 17 and 20% during that time period. When I came to the Treasurer's Office, Treasurer Schmidt told me to dig into everything I can regarding this post war trust fund coming off that dip and do a strong legal analysis of how that fund was set up initially, how it was currently being administered, and where we need to be going with it. As we did that, we realized that how this fund was started back in the 90s, it had been administered incorrectly since then. Rather than paying out true income, we gave money to Co of VA whenever they asked. They were looking at the fund and assuming things were income when they were not. They were acceptable gross of the fund. We are guided by the Uniform Principal and Income Act which is part of the North Dakota Century Code. We did analysis of the income, determined what our income had been, and what we thought it would be. At that point we put out an office policy, gave it to Co of Veterans' Affairs, and we told them we anticipate that the income will be roughly \$200,000 in this next biennium. The previous biennium they had been given slightly under \$400,000 which was not true income. They had this limit. I believe they felt a crunch, because they had been taking in applications where they didn't really have proper spending authority. It is not that the post war trust fund is not providing the same amount of income. It is that we are all trying to deal with the change in policy that is consistent with law. Our office and Co of Veterans' Affairs have worked with the Attorney General's Office. We have had multiple meetings. I believe we are on the same page of understanding how income actually is derived and what can be used for these. In the meantime, they are trying to adjust to this

and to the needs and at that point in time, they did go through the grant process. Now they are coming to you as we move forward with our income policy. With that being said, the post war trust fund is producing pretty decent income right now. We are not seeing hits like we had in those rough market days. The status of the fund is that it is \$4,242,000 as of the end of December. We had a very good month of income. The treasurer invests the funds according to both growth and income and knowing the needs out there has invested with strong income producing funds. We hope that will continue, and we monitor it constantly to try to produce enough income. The needs of the vets weigh very heavily on the Treasurer's heart as the daughter, wife, sister, and mother of veterans, a son who just came back from Iraq not too long ago and another who will be leaving for boot camp shortly, and so she commissioned a study that a couple of analysts from NDSU have been working on to understand what the needs of future vets are or will be. We are getting very close to being able to release that. I think that will show you how the fund has been used, where it needs to be, and at that point you will have to be making some decisions. We feel comfortable right now that all the grants applications have been paid or the money that is available is what they need at this time.

Rep. Bill Amerman: Rest assured, I wasn't on any hunt of any sort, but when I read testimony that they used to get it from there and now they are unable to I just wanted an overview of how the trust fund went and I thank you very much.

Rep. Glen Froseth: Maybe just a little update on how the post war trust fund came about. I think it started out at \$5 million, didn't it? I don't know for what reason the principal was reduced. I don't really understand why the principal had been reduced even at a low rate of interest.

Carlee McLeod: The actual initial corpus of the fund was about \$4.1 or \$4.2 million. It was in 1996, I believe, that the fund in existence was created. We are right on track with the actual principal. The way that the wording of the constitution is all income has to be paid over for the benefit of veterans. Understanding the needs of the veterans, this fund has been invested to provide income to meet their needs and does not have the opportunity to grow. The Uniform Principal and Income Act defines income, and we are bound by that. This fund is not exempted. I believe that SIB does have funds that are exempted from that, but we are held to strict guidelines about what is income and we have to pay it all over.

Rep. Gary Paur: You say that the Treasurer's Office is doing a study on this whole business, right?

Carlee McLeod: Yes. We have commissioned a study on how the fund has been used and what needs will be in the future for veterans and assuming that the similar benefits would be available where we would need to grow the funds to be able to pay out that sort of income.

Rep. Gary Paur: It would appear to me to be prudent with this bill to wait until that study is probably done.

Carlee McLeod: That is up to you. The scope of the study did not analyze the stand down dollars but the grants program which is the main part of the trust fund.

Chairman Bette Grande: The stand down dollars will not be in the post war trust fund. The stand down is actually kind of anomaly of its own. It is something separate than what we want to deal with post war trust fund. We will deal with post war trust fund in another bill in a couple weeks.

The reopening of the hearing was closed.

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
February 3, 2011
13994

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Provide an appropriation to the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs for stand down events

Minutes:

Chairman Bette Grande started the meeting by looking at HB 1177. That is the bill where they came in and they are wanting to have money for stand downs. An amendment was presented. **Attachment 1.** One of the things I asked Lonnie was how much do you want to spend on each of these? How do you want to do it? He said \$5,000 maximum so that was the initial thought on that. In discussion with appropriations and how things are looking especially with the last bill we heard, we need to figure out how we are going to merge all these dollars. I believe the amendment is suppose to read Page 1, Line 5, replace \$40,000. I would like to put it at \$20,000. That gives them the opportunity to set up four more stand downs and what I am hoping that does is it tells them, also as Lonnie had said, they are trying to get this to where they are doing it with private funds so we are not utilizing every stand down in this session. Some of the communities have proven that they will do it, and I know that once they have established—they have them in two places now—if they can establish them in four more, the rest of it should start to flow for them. This is not suppose to be a payout for these stand downs like that. These are suppose to be community involvement.

Rep. Glen Froseth: The amendment reads to replace \$40,000 with \$20,000.

Chairman Bette Grande: We had a little typing error back here, and I am asking the committee to write the word \$20,000 there.

Vice Chairman Randy Boehning made a motion to accept the amendment.

Rep. Gary Paur seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Rep. Karen Karls made a motion for a **Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.**

Rep. Lisa Meier seconded the motion.

Rep. Lisa Meier: I know Rep. Froseth had made mention that in the paper last week, I think the federal government had appropriated \$1.8 million toward these programs, so I thought that was really good too.

Chairman Bette Grande: They are working on this budget at this point. I asked the chairman how do you want me to proceed? He said send them down and we will start working on the numbers. He said as long as you understand some of your numbers may change.

DO PASS AS AMENDED, REREFER TO APPROPRIATIONS, 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT. Rep. Karen Karls is the carrier of this bill.

11.0070.02002
Title.03000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans
Affairs Committee
February 3, 2011

V/R
2/3/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$40,000" with "\$20,000"

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "The department of veterans' affairs may not spend more than five thousand dollars for a single "stand down" event."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-3-11
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☒ Adopt Amendment

☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Boehning Seconded By Paur

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande			Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Ron Guggisberg		
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich		
Karen Karls					
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur					
Karen Rohr					
Mark Sanford					
Vicky Steiner					
Roscoe Streyle					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

*voice
vote
to adopt
amendment
motion
carried*

Date: 2-3-11
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 11. 0070. 02002

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☒ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep Karls Seconded By Rep Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande	✓		Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	✓		Ron Guggisberg	✓	
Glen Froseth	✓		Lonny Winrich	✓	
Karen Karls	✓				
Lisa Meier	✓				
Gary Paur	✓				
Karen Rohr	✓				
Mark Sanford	✓				
Vicky Steiner	✓				
Roscoe Streyle	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Karls

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1177: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Grande, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1177 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$40,000" with "\$20,000"

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "The department of veterans' affairs may not spend more than five thousand dollars for a single "stand down" event."

Renumber accordingly

2011 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1177

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
2/10/11
14367

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Meredith Tracholt

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Delzer: Opened discussion on HB 1177. The title was read.

Representative Bette Grande, District 41: We have asked for a set-aside of \$20,000 with \$5000 per event, to have the commissioner of veterans' affairs put forth stand downs at four locations. They would be in other areas than Fargo-Grand Forks-Bismarck, to reach out to homeless vets, that's typically the target of these stand downs. The plan is, when they do their first stand down in that community, they utilize this fund as their start up fund, up to \$5000 for the event, and after that, the community picks up the involvement and it moves to private funding.

Chairman Delzer: This is limited to \$5000, and you hope to have four or more?

Representative Grande: Correct.

Chairman Delzer: In lines 8-9 of the bill, it says 'this act is not subject to 54-44.1-11,' is that the turnback?

Roxanne Woeste, Legislative Council: Yes, I believe so.

Chairman Delzer: Was that put in there on purpose, or is there a reason you would not want this subject to turnback?

Representative Grande: Initially they wanted to place this in the post-war trust fund, but that doesn't work to put funds in there, so this is going to be a separate account. They were hoping to hold onto it past the biennium, in case they didn't get the stand downs done, and they would continue to run from that.

Chairman Delzer: Should they not come back and ask for a reappropriation?

Representative Grande: I don't care either way.

Chairman Delzer: Questions by the committee? It's pretty self-explanatory. I would ask the Human Resources section dealing with vets affairs and the vets home take a good look at this and see how this mingles with the appropriation for that. Further questions or comments by the committee?

Representative Skarphol: I'm curious if this will be in the baseline next time around.

Chairman Delzer: Was there any questions of the bill sponsor about that?

Representative Grande: To have it as their request in their budget?

Representative Skarphol: Correct, for the next biennium should we anticipate it being part of their budget request?

Representative Grande: I'm not sure if they've ever asked for that as a budget line, but I think it would be simpler if they would. To me there's some confusion over how they do some of their bills. These come from their ACOVA, so this was not from the bill sponsor, per se. When the administrating council puts out their requests, that's what this comes from. That may not have been a part of the commissioner's budget at that time. I would forsee that being a better route for this.

Chairman Delzer: Isn't this just supposed to be start up money, and once they're done, they're supposed to be done locally going forward?

Representative Grande: That would only be seven communities, I'm not sure how many communities might want this.

Chairman Delzer: You must need a large-sized community to have an event like this to have any value to it.

Representative Grande: I would agree with that.

Representative Skarphol: Should we anticipate this to be in the baseline next time?

Tad Torgerson, Office of Management and Budget: We'd probably request some clarification in the legislation as to the intent, if it was to be continued or one time.

Chairman Delzer: Was there a request this time for any stand down money?

Torgerson: I'm not aware of any.

Representative Klein: Is this for guard or regular, or both?

Representative Grande: Every veteran would qualify to come.

Chairman Delzer: That opens a question, because in the adjutant general's budget there is a lot of money for the service centers in Bismarck and I think they're planning one for Fargo, so that may need to be looked at.

Representative Pollert: Is there an event in Fargo that was covered by the city?

Representative Grande: Correct, Fargo's been doing them for a number of years, with private funds. Bismarck has had a number of them. They have struggled with getting the private funding in Bismarck. Grand Forks has had them, mostly with private funds. They're trying to add Dickinson, Williston, Minot, at this point.

Chairman Delzer: Did you ask what the normal cost is in the Fargo area?

Representative Grande: \$4000-\$5000, including meals for the veterans. For clarity, these stand downs are really for the homeless destitute. These are not people coming to, e.g., the service center for the National Guard. We would love for them to filter through there, but this is the community outreach to those that are hard to reach, hard to convince to come into a center, but they might be willing to come in for that free lunch, then we can get their name, get them registered, get them their winter clothes they're not going to have. This is the lowest denominator.

Representative Dahl: Did they indicate how many new veterans they're signing up for services as a result of these events?

Representative Grande: I don't recall that they talked about it. At the event in Bismarck, there were 245 veterans that attended the stand down. This is a nationwide thing that the various states do with the VAs. They have about 200 of them that operate across the nation. The cost runs between \$4000-\$7000 for a stand down in Bismarck.

Chairman Delzer: Has Bismarck had one?

Representative Grande: Bismarck has had a couple.

Chairman Delzer: Further questions? We'll get some more information and take this one up later.

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
2/15/11
14574

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Meredith Tracholt

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Delzer: Opened discussion on HB 1177. There was a handout of proposed amendment .03001. The policy committee that had this amended the bill and then voted 12-0 Do Pass. They went from \$40,000 to \$20,000 and added some language that the state treasurer had to approve the expenditures. One of the things we noticed when we had our discussion about it was it is currently not set to be turnback, and there was discussion on whether or not there should be local match.

Representative Wieland: Went over amendment .03001. Basically it puts the reporting mechanism in, and talks about a match.

Representative Dahl: Regarding the language in the third section of the amendment, regarding private matching funds, I thought there was talk of city funds being used. Would this preclude this appropriation from being used if they don't use private dollars?

Chairman Delzer: Yes it would, but the Fargo stand down is not at issue. If Fargo is doing them on their own with the private businesses, the idea behind the bill was to go in some communities where they aren't doing them, and put a little money out there to see how well or if it would work in their community. And it would require these communities not currently doing them to come up with half the money.

Representative Kaldor: I have attended only one stand down event, in Bismarck, and there were many professionals who volunteered their services. That doesn't count as part of the match. I am concerned about putting this in, as a lot of these stand down events are really dependent on a lot of people volunteering time.

Chairman Delzer: Would you feel better if it said dollar for dollar or in-kind?

Representative Kaldor: I would. I know a lot of people are uncomfortable with in-kind contributions, but I witnessed what they do, and it's unbelievable, to see these people providing services and spending their entire day doing that. These events are pretty important and serve a population that is sometimes very challenging to serve.

Representative Skarphol: In-kind only makes some of us uncomfortable when it comes to Centers of Excellence, I would have no difficulty incorporating in-kind here.

Representative Monson: I wouldn't have a problem counting the in-kind. How do you determine before the day how much in-kind is going to show up?

Chairman Delzer: It's like when a farmer goes to the bank and says how much he's going to make farming, we make it work.

Representative Kaldor: I think the organization scheduled the services there. I'm assuming they had this well planned in advance.

Representative Wieland: I don't have a problem adding that. I will make a motion to include that on the amendment. Up to this point it's all been financed by the cities that held these things, and I think they're very supportive anyway. I move the amendment plus the addition of the words 'in-kind.'

Representative Skarphol: Second.

Chairman Delzer: We have a motion to amend the bill with .03001, incorporating 'in-kind' as part of the match. Discussion on the motion to amend. Voice vote carries. We have the amended bill before us.

Recording error.

Representative Wieland: I move Do Pass as Amended.

Representative Pollert: Second.

Chairman Delzer: Discussion. Motion carries 21-0 on a roll call vote. Representative Wieland will be the carrier. Votes that are taken here do not lock you in on the floor. If there is new information that comes out on the floor, it's understandable if there are changes. Everybody has the right to vote however they want. Discussion of upcoming schedule. We'll stand adjourned.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

Page 1, line 8, remove "This Act is not subject to"

Page 1, line 9, replace "section 54-44.1-11." with "This amount is one-time funding and is not a part of the agency's base budget for the 2013-15 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-third legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding."

Page 1, line 11, after "affairs" insert "may only provide funding for a "stand down" event to the extent private matching funds are used to provide a dollar-for-dollar match. The department of veterans' affairs"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

House Appropriations Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 03001

Action Taken: ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Wieland Seconded By Rep. Skarphol

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer			Representative Nelson		
Vice Chairman Kempenich			Representative Wieland		
Representative Pollert					
Representative Skarphol					
Representative Thoreson			Representative Glassheim		
Representative Bellew			Representative Kaldor		
Representative Brandenburg			Representative Kroeber		
Representative Dahl			Representative Metcalf		
Representative Dosch			Representative Williams		
Representative Hawken					
Representative Klein					
Representative Kreidt					
Representative Martinson					
Representative Monson					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

amend ⁽⁰³⁰⁰¹⁾ + add the words 'in-kind'

voice vote carries

VR
2/16/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

Page 1, line 8, remove "This Act is not subject to"

Page 1, line 9, replace "section 54-44.1-11." with "This amount is one-time funding and is not a part of the agency's base budget for the 2013-15 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-third legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding."

Page 1, line 11, after "affairs" insert "may only provide funding for a "stand down" event to the extent private matching funds are used to provide a dollar-for-dollar or in-kind match. The department of veterans' affairs"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/15
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

House Appropriations Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Wieland Seconded By Rep. Pollert

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X		Representative Nelson	X	
Vice Chairman Kempenich	X		Representative Wieland	X	
Representative Pollert	X				
Representative Skarphol	X				
Representative Thoreson	X		Representative Glassheim	X	
Representative Bellew	X		Representative Kaldor	X	
Representative Brandenburg	X		Representative Kroeber	X	
Representative Dahl	X		Representative Metcalf	X	
Representative Dosch	X		Representative Williams	X	
Representative Hawken	X				
Representative Klein	X				
Representative Kreidt	X				
Representative Martinson	X				
Representative Monson	X				

Total (Yes) 21 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Wieland

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1177, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (21 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1177 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 8, remove "This Act is not subject to"

Page 1, line 9, replace "section 54-44.1-11." with "This amount is one-time funding and is not a part of the agency's base budget for the 2013-15 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-third legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding."

Page 1, line 11, after "affairs" insert "may only provide funding for a "stand down" event to the extent private matching funds are used to provide a dollar-for-dollar or in-kind match. The department of veterans' affairs"

Renumber accordingly

2011 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1177

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
March 18, 2011
15667

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

Testimony attached.

Representative Duane DeKray: The veterans in one place at one time and see that everybody gets matched.

Senator Cook: What type of expenses are we talking about?

Representative Duane DeKray: Transportation, bringing people in, bringing in the people that need to be there.

Senator Nelson: It seems weird to me that if we are giving money to this fund why do we have lines 11-13?

Chairman Dever: We do have an amendment coming to remove that.

Representative Ralph Metcalf: District 24, line 11-14 are being removed by my amendment 04001 and I hope that you have that available. See attachment #1.

Senator Nelson: You wouldn't have any problem with it getting raised?

Representative Ralph Metcalf: No, I didn't look at the aspect of it but I would not be opposed.

Chairman Dever: Was that done in policy or apropos

Lyle Schuchard: Chairman North Dakota Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs. See attached testimony #2.

Senator Cook: You make the statement that it is associated w/ homeless. How many do you think were homeless?

Lyle Schuchard: It is hard to say because most of them will not say.

Chairman Dever: And am I correct in assuming that you don't accept donations from veterans?

Lyle Schuchard: Yes.

Senator Marcellais: You mentioned the ads, is this posted on the webpage?

Lyle Schuchard: The ads are radio and have interviews and we try to saturate the area.

Lonnie Wangen: Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs. See attached testimony # 3.

Chairman Dever: Matching funds, have you tried to quantify the donated services for this?

Lonnie Wangen: If we do in kind matches I think that it will be easy for the local communities to match that.

Senator Cook: What type of ID is required to get in?

Lonnie Wangen: I believe anything that proves that you were a service.

Senator Cook: Can't donate to these things?

Lonnie Wangen: I believe that the intent on that is that they don't want the Veterans to feel obligated to donate. But I am sure that the organization itself would take donations either before or after the event.

Chairman Dever: I see that in your list of services that are provided you have legal services of North Dakota available to the Veterans.

Lonnie Wangen: We had 8 different communities listed here and at \$5,000 a community it works out to \$40,000 if we have \$20,000 we can have half of them in one year and the other half in the biennium. With the \$40,000 we would be able to pledge the \$5,000 to each one of those communities so that they can make an attempt at a stand down.

Senator Marcellais: You mentioned \$5,000 for 8 different cities. Could you go by the population of those areas, the population for the 8 vicinities that way we can decide if we break it down the funding differently.

Lonnie Wangen: I guess we hadn't looked at it that way, we figured that we are going to want the same amount of people and the same organizations there.

Senator Nelson: Who is actually in charge locally?

Lonnie Wangen: As department of veteran affairs we don't want to micro manage this we want local communities and veterans organization to run this on their own.

Senator Nelson: My mailman is an active Amvet, could I just give a check to him and he would see that it gets to the proper place?

Lonnie Wangen: IF your community is going to have a stand down I am pretty sure that you could contact my office and I could tell you who puts that on, it's usually thought the VA or the Amvets or VFW.

Senator Berry: You mentioned \$40,000 in 8 cities but you also mentioned that the ones that are up and running are self sustaining so are we talking about additional cities?

Lonnie Wangen: Yes, that is right. We are looking to expand to other cities in the state.

Chairman Dever: The money might be helpful but we also need the passion of the people. It's your intention that this becomes self sustaining?

Lonnie Wangen: Yes that is correct.

John Jacobsen: Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. See attachment # 4.

Carlee McLeod: Assistant state treasurer. How we would determine a successful in kind match. It's not hard to put an amount in and that most of the information comes in after the fact so we would have actual dollars to match. If you decide to leave this bill in its current format we are going to need some kind of guidance from you either from committee discussion or by amending the bill to allow in kind donations or actual in hand in kind donations.

There was no further discussion, Chairman Dever closed the public hearing on HB 1177.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
March 24, 2011
15961

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Kate Oliver

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of veterans affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

No testimony attached

A motion to adopt the amendments provided to the committee by Representative Metcalf was made by Senator Cook with a second by Senator Marcellais. There was no further discussion, roll was taken and the motion passed 6-0-1. With the amended bill before them, Senator Cook made a motion of the committee for a do pass as amended with a re referral to Appropriations with a second by Senator Marcellais. There was no further discussion, roll was taken, and the motion carried 6-0-1 with Senator Schaible carrying the bill to the floor.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

Page 1, line 11, remove "The department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, remove line 12

Page 1, line 13, remove "treasurer of an accounting of proposed expenditures."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/24/11
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _____

Senate _____ Committee _____

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
	X				
Chairman Dever			Senator Marcellais	X	
Vice Chairman Sorvaag	X		Senator Nelson	X	
Senator Barry					
Senator Cook	X				
Senator Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 10 No 0

Absent Berry

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/24/11
Roll Call Vote # 42

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

Senate _____ Committee _____

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☒ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	X		Senator Marcellais	X	
Vice Chairman Sorvaag	X		Senator Nelson	X	
Senator Barry					
Senator Cook	X				
Senator Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent Benny

Floor Assignment Schaible

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1177, as reengrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1177 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 11, remove "The department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, remove line 12

Page 1, line 13, remove "treasurer of an accounting of proposed expenditures."

Renumber accordingly

2011 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1177

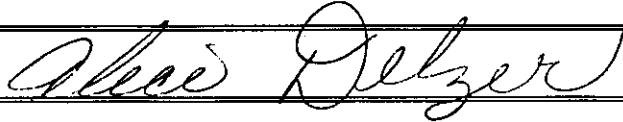
2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
03-14-2011
Job # 15416

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

**A SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING VETERANS' AFFAIRS – STAND DOWN
(HEARD DURING THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON HB 1007)**

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Kilzer opened the discussion regarding HB 1177. Senators Bowman and Robinson were present. Lori Laschkewitsch, OMB and Sheila M. Sandness, Legislative Council were present.

Chairman Kilzer asks, on the related legislation on the green sheet, there are 4 other bills mentioned. Tell me the status of each one of those House bills that are related here?

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs states, HB 1177. Appropriations for stand downs. It started out at \$40,000. We were looking to start stand downs in communities throughout the state of ND. Currently we have stand down in Fargo and Bismarck. We want to hit the larger cities throughout the state, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston, Dickinson and Jamestown. We would offer up to \$5,000.00 to establish a stand down. We wouldn't give any money out front. They would establish a stand down and they would get local charities, organizations and they would get federal VA, and raise the funds to put the stand down together. If you do not meet all your financial obligations to put this on, we will pay what you can't raise. This has worked out in Bismarck and Fargo. Fargo doesn't have to ask us for funds anymore. The last time in Bismarck, they did not have to come to us for funds.

Chairman Kilzer asks, is the bill still alive?

Lonnie Wangen states it is in the Government and Veterans Affairs committee and says it's scheduled for this Friday.

Chairman Kilzer closed the discussion on HB 1177. (This discussion was held during the subcommittee hearing on HB 1007.)

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1177
April 1, 2011
Job # 16266

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Rose Loring

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Holmberg called the committee hearing to order on HB 1177.
Sheila M. Sandness - Legislative Council; **Lori Laschkewitsch** - OMB.

Dick Dever, District 32, State Senator
Testified in support of HB 1177.

I want to start by expressing my appreciation to **Carlee McLeod**, (Deputy State Treasurer) for being here on the last bill (HB 1468). I very much appreciate all the work that she and the treasurer do, particularly in support of veterans.

HB 1177 came to us initially with \$40,000 in it to support stand down events for veterans. It was amended in the House to \$20,000 and they had that go through the treasurer's office for approval of expenditure of those funds and we took that requirement out and left it at \$20,000. Veteran's stand down events currently take place in Fargo and Bismarck on an annual basis. They have an event at a location. In Bismarck, the last couple of years has been held at the Amvets in Fargo. It's grown to a point where they do it now at the Fargo Dome. They bring different resources from the community together and then invite veterans to come and most of them are needy veterans and they provide legal services, haircuts, Job Service is part. It's a wonderful event. The cost of putting one of those together is about \$5000. They are asking for \$20,000 so they can expand that across the state to four other cities. The ones in Fargo and Bismarck, having had some experience, are self-sustaining so they don't require additional money. They've gone to the Community for those funds in the past. We think that \$20,000 is reasonable. It's a good program and we'd like to see it expanded across the state. The bill requires private matching funds so it's not that we're just funding the event.

I think also the success of these events is highly a factor of the passion of the people that put it together. That's what we've seen and they've been very successful. We would encourage passage of this bill as well.

Senator Warner: Is there a military term "stand- down"? Is it "at-ease" or "retreat"?

Senator Dever: We never say "retreat". I think the term "stand-down" comes from what is usually referred to as R & R (Rest & Relaxation).

Senator Robinson moved Do Pass.

Senator Wardner seconded.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 13 Nay: 0 Absent: 0

The bill goes back the GVA and Senator Schaible will carry the bill.

Date: 4/17/11
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1177

Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Robinson Seconded By Wardner

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Holmberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Senator Warner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Bowman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Senator O'Connell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Grindberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Senator Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Christmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Wardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Kilzer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Fischer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Krebsbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Erbele	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Senator Wanzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment 6 VA Schaefer

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1177, as reengrossed and amended: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1177, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HB 1177

Attachment
1177

TESTIMONY ON HB 1177
9:30 FORT UNION ROOM.
GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LYLE SCHUCHARD, CHAIRPERSON
ND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
January 20, 2011

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN GRANDE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
I AM LYLE SCHUCHARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE ON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS IS A 15
MEMBER COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM
NAMES SUBMITTED BY EACH OF THE STATE'S 5 MAJOR VETERANS
ORGANIZATIONS. THE FIVE ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, (DAV), VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS (VFW), VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (VVA), AND THE
AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS). WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
OVERSEEING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

HB 1177 IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR VETERANS STAND DOWNS.

BRIEF HISTORY OF VETERANS STAND DOWNS:

What is a Stand Down?

IN TIMES OF WAR, EXHAUSTED COMBAT UNITS REQUIRING TIME TO
REST AND RECOVER WERE REMOVED FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS
TO A PLACE OF RELATIVE SECURITY AND SAFETY. TODAY, STAND

DOWN REFERS TO A COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP THE NATION'S ESTIMATED 200,000 HOMELESS VETERANS "COMBAT" LIFE ON THE STREETS. THE NATION'S FIRST STAND DOWN WAS HELD IN SAN DIEGO IN 1988. SINCE THEN, THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN WIDELY REPLICATED NATIONWIDE. TODAY, MORE THAN 200 STAND DOWNS TAKE PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTRY EVERY YEAR. "THE PROGRAM HAS BECOME RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST VALUABLE OUTREACH TOOL TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS IN THE NATION TODAY," ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

THE CENTRAL DAKOTA STAND DOWN, HELD IN BISMARCK, WAS STARTED SIX YEARS AGO AND WE WILL BE HOLDING ANOTHER ONE THIS FALL IN SEPTEMBER. THE EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE LOCAL AMVETS POST 9. IN OUR FIRST YEAR OVER 50 VETERANS WERE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AND THE NUMBER HAS INCREASED EACH YEAR AND IN 2010 THERE WERE 245 VETERANS THAT ATTENDED THE STAND DOWN. PRIOR TO THE STAND DOWN THE EVENT IS BROADCAST THROUGH LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND AREA NEWSPAPERS ARE ALSO ASKED TO ADVERTISE THE EVENT. STAND DOWNS ARE ALSO HELD IN THE CITIES OF FARGO AND GRAND FORKS, AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ASSISTING DICKINSON IN HOSTING THEIR FIRST STAND DOWN THIS YEAR.

STAND DOWN'S PHILOSOPHY IS A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT. THE HAND UP IS MADE POSSIBLE EACH YEAR BY THE DEDICATION MANY VOLUNTEERS AND NUMEROUS SPONSORS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE PROVIDERS AT THE STAND DOWN:

- COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
- VA NURSE (BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK)
- VA ELIGIBILITY
- VETERANS CENTER OUTSTATION
- COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- DRIVERS LICENSE DIVISION (DOT)
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- JOB SERVICE
- WELCOME HOUSE
- SUICIDE PREVENTION
- NATIVE AMERICAN & MINORITY STATION
- EAR & FOOT CHECK
- WOMAN'S HEALTH
- ND PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY
- ABUSED ADULT RESOURCE CENTER
- WEST CENTRAL HUMAN SERVICES
- CUSTER HOUSE
- HAIR CUTS (PENNY'S)
- VETERANS HOME
- TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO THOSE IN NEED
- HOT MEAL IS PROVIDED AT NOON

ALTHOUGH STAND DOWNS TEND TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESS VETERANS WE WELCOME ANY VETERAN IN NEED TO PARTICIPATE AT OUR ANNUAL EVENT.

IT COSTS BETWEEN \$4,000 AND \$7,000 TO FUND A STAND DOWN. IN THE PAST THE BISMARCK, CENTRAL DAKOTA, STAND DOWN WAS FUNDED BY THE POST WAR TRUST FUND BUT THOSE FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE LAST YEAR. A FEDERAL GRANT WAS APPLIED FOR AND WE WERE ABLE TO FUND IT THROUGH THAT SOURCE. PAPER WORK IS A NIGHTMARE AND FUNDING PROVIDED BY THIS BILL WOULD MAKE THE PROCESS MUCH EASIER FOR US.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS HAS VOTED TO APPROVE THIS BILL THEREFORE I ASK THAT THE COMMITTEE GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERABLE TO THIS BILL.

I WILL TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE AT THIS TIME. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY TODAY.

Attachment 1
1177

HB 1177

Testimony from Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
1/20/2011

Chairman Grande and Committee members,

HB 1177 is to provide appropriations for Stand Down events in communities across North Dakota. Currently Stand Down events are conducted in Bismarck and Fargo. These events bring many organizations together in one place to provide service to our veteran's in need. The main focus is directed at homeless veterans. The handouts provided are the hand outs from the Bismarck Stand Down. As you can see many organizations provide services and participate in these events.

The money needed to get these events started in other cities in North Dakota is used to cover expenses in organizing, advertising and administering these events. Money will be pledged by the ND Department of Veterans Affairs to the Veterans service organizations who will host the events. If the local organization has expenses which they can not cover they will submit these expenses to the ND Department of Veterans Affairs for re-imbursement, up to the amount authorized for the event.

I would appreciate your support on HB 1177 and will answer questions you may have.

Thank you.

Map Directory for Stand Down (downstairs)

- 1) Welcome Table (Fill out clothing order **)
- 2) Veterans Administration (VA), Nurse (BP, Ear & Foot Checks)
- 3) Veterans Administration (VA), Baseline Physicals
- 4) Burleigh County Veterans Service Officer
- 5) Morton County Veterans Service Officer
- 6) North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
- 7) Job Service North Dakota
- 8) Military Service Center
- 9) Audiologist Information
- 10) Veterans Administration (VA), Women's Advocates
- 11) Veterans Administration (VA), Mental Health
- 12) Veterans Administration (VA), Substance Abuse
- 13) North Dakota Veterans Home
- 14) Vet Center (Vet Center also has their mobile unit outside)
- 15) North Dakota Veteran Cemetery
- 16) North Dakota State Approving Agency & (DOL Office of Apprenticeship & Training)
- 17) Veterans Administration (VA), Native American Outreach
- 18) Veterans Administration (VA), OEF/OIF
- 19) Veterans Administration (VA), Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
- 20) Veterans Administration (VA), Benefits
- 21) Veterans Administration (VA), Rater
- 22) Veterans Administration (VA), Suicide Prevention
- 23) Highway Department Information (ID's)
- 24) Hair Stylist
- 25) Hair Stylist
- 26) Lice prevention
- 27) Chaplain

** Clothing will be ready for you outside after you have finished inside with the meal and all of the other services on the upper & lower level.

Map Directory for Project Homeless Connect

- 1) Registration Area
- 2) Agency/ Volunteer Sign-in
- 3) Gate City Bank Bags & ND Housing Finance Agency Pens
- 4) Community Action
- 5) Salvation Army
- 6) Burleigh County Housing
- 7) Morton County Housing
- 8) Ruth Meiers Hospitality House
- 9) Adult Abuse Resource Center
- 10) West Central Human Service Center
- 11) Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry
- 12) Exit Gifts/ donations
- 13) Haircutting Stations Area
- 14) Social Security
- 15) Welcome House
- 16) Dakota Center for Independent Living
- 17) Legal Services of ND
- 18) Burleigh County Social Services
- 19) Bis-Man Transit and CAT
- 20) Youthworks
- 21) Department of Public Instruction
- 22) United Tribes Technical College
- 23) Job Service of ND
- 24) Experience Works
- 25) BECEP/ West River Head start
- 26) Bismarck Public Schools/ Carrie's Kids
- 27) Adult Learning Center
- 28) MSA United Way
- 29) Single Point of Entry/ ND Parole and Probation
- 30) Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- 31) Custer Public Health
- 32) NDSU Extension Family Nutrition Program
- 33) Bridging the Dental Gap
- 34) Medcenter One Nursing
- 35) West Dakota Chapter American Red Cross

Attachment 1
1177

Amendment to HB 1177

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$40,000" with "forty thousand dollars"

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "The department of veterans' affairs may not spend more than five thousand dollars for a single "stand down" event."

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$40,000" with "twenty thousand dollars"

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "The department of veterans' affairs may not spend more than five thousand dollars for a single "stand down" event."

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY ON HB 1177
10:00 AM MISSOURI RIVER ROOM.
GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LYLE SCHUCHARD, CHAIRPERSON
ND AMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
March 18, 2011

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN DEVER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS. I AM LYLE SCHUCHARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS IS A 15 MEMBER COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM NAMES SUBMITTED BY EACH OF THE STATE'S 5 MAJOR VETERANS ORGANIZATAIONS. THE FIVE ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS. (DAV), VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW), VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (VVA), AND THE AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS). WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

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IN TIMES OF WAR, EXHAUSTED COMBAT UNITS REQUIRING TIME TO REST AND RECOVER WERE REMOVED FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS TO A PLACE OF RELATIVE SECURITY AND SAFETY. TODAY, STAND DOWN REFERS TO A COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION

PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP THE NATION'S ESTIMATED 200,000 HOMELESS VETERANS "COMBAT" LIFE ON THE STREETS. THE NATION'S FIRST STAND DOWN WAS HELD IN SAN DIEGO IN 1988. SINCE THEN, THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN WIDELY REPLICATED NATIONWIDE. TODAY, MORE THAN 200 STAND DOWNS TAKE PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTRY EVERY YEAR. "THE PROGRAM HAS BECOME RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST VALUABLE OUTREACH TOOL TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS IN THE NATION TODAY," ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

THE CENTRAL DAKOTA STAND DOWN, HELD IN BISMARCK, WAS STARTED SIX YEARS AGO AND WE WILL BE HOLDING ANOTHER ONE THIS FALL IN SEPTEMBER. THE EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE LOCAL AMVETS POST 9. IN OUR FIRST YEAR OVER 50 VETERANS WERE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AND THE NUMBER HAS INCREASED EACH YEAR AND IN 2010 THERE WERE 245 VETERANS THAT ATTENDED THE STAND DOWN. PRIOR TO THE STAND DOWN THE EVENT IS BROADCAST THROUGH LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND AREA NEWSPAPERS ARE ALSO ASKED TO ADVERTISE THE EVENT. STAND DOWNS ARE ALSO HELD IN THE CITIES OF FARGO AND GRAND FORKS, AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ASSISTING DICKINSON IN HOSTING THEIR FIRST STAND DOWN THIS YEAR.

STAND DOWN'S PHILOSOPHY IS A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT. THE HAND UP IS MADE POSSIBLE EACH YEAR BY THE DEDICATION MANY VOLUNTEERS AND NUMEROUS SPONSORS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE PROVIDERS AT THE STAND DOWN:

- COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
- VA NURSE (BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK)
- VA ELIGIBILITY
- VETERANS CENTER OUTSTATION
- COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- DRIVERS LICENSE DIVISION (DOT)
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- JOB SERVICE
- WELCOME HOUSE
- SUICIDE PREVENTION
- NATIVE AMERICAN & MINORITY STATION
- EAR & FOOT CHECK
- WOMAN'S HEALTH
- ND PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY
- ABUSED ADULT RESOURCE CENTER
- WEST CENTRAL HUMAN SERVICES
- CUSTER HOUSE
- HAIR CUTS (PENNY'S)
- VETERANS HOME
- TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO THOSE IN NEED
- HOT MEAL IS PROVIDED AT NOON

ALTHOUGH STAND DOWNS TEND TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESS VETERANS WE WELCOME ANY VETERAN IN NEED TO PARTICIPATE AT OUR ANNUAL EVENT.

IT COSTS BETWEEN \$4,000 AND \$7,000 TO FUND A STAND DOWN. IN THE PAST THE BISMARCK, CENTRAL DAKOTA, STAND DOWN

WAS FUNDED BY THE POST WAR TRUST FUND BUT THOSE FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE LAST YEAR. A FEDERAL GRANT WAS APPLIED FOR AND WE WERE ABLE TO FUND IT THROUGH THAT SOURCE. PAPER WORK IS A NIGHTMARE AND FUNDING PROVIDED BY THIS BILL WOULD MAKE THE PROCESS MUCH EASIER FOR US.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS HAS VOTED TO APPROVE THIS BILL THEREFORE I ASK THAT THE COMMITTEE GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERABLE TO HB 1177 IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND RESTORE THE AMOUNT TO \$40,000 FOR THE BIENNIUM. THAT WILL ALLOW US TO FUND ALL STAND DOWNS AND NOT HAVE TO ELIMINATE SOME CITIES FROM HOLDING THESE EVENTS FOR NEEDY VETERANS.

I WILL TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE AT THIS TIME.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY TODAY.

TestimonyOnHB1177DEBERS

HB 1177

Testimony from Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

3/18/2011

Chairman Devers and Committee members,

HB 1177 is to provide appropriations for Stand Down events in communities across North Dakota such as Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston, Dickinson, Jamestown, Valley City and Wahpeton. Currently Stand Down events are conducted in Bismarck and Fargo. These events bring many organizations together in one place to provide service to our veteran's in need. All Veterans are invited to attend. The main focus is directed at homeless veterans as well as new returning veterans. The handouts provided are the hand outs from the Bismarck Stand Down. As you can see many organizations provide services and participate in these events.

The money needed to get these events started in other cities in North Dakota is used to cover expenses in organizing, advertising and administering these events. Money will be pledged by the ND Department of Veterans Affairs to the Veterans service organizations who will host the events. If the local organizations have expenses which they can not cover they will submit these expenses to the ND Department of Veterans Affairs, after the event, for re-imbursement, up to the amount authorized for the event.

I would appreciate your support on HB 1177 and will answer questions you may have.

Thank you.

Map Directory for Stand Down (downstairs)

- 1) Welcome Table (Fill out clothing order **)
- 2) Veterans Administration (VA), Nurse (BP, Ear & Foot Checks)
- 3) Veterans Administration (VA), Baseline Physicals
- 4) Burleigh County Veterans Service Officer
- 5) Morton County Veterans Service Officer
- 6) North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
- 7) Job Service North Dakota
- 8) Military Service Center
- 9) Audiologist Information
- 10) Veterans Administration (VA), Women's Advocates
- 11) Veterans Administration (VA), Mental Health
- 12) Veterans Administration (VA), Substance Abuse
- 13) North Dakota Veterans Home
- 14) Vet Center (Vet Center also has their mobile unit outside)
- 15) North Dakota Veteran Cemetery
- 16) North Dakota State Approving Agency & (DOL Office of Apprenticeship & Training)
- 17) Veterans Administration (VA), Native American Outreach
- 18) Veterans Administration (VA), OEF/OIF
- 19) Veterans Administration (VA), Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
- 20) Veterans Administration (VA), Benefits
- 21) Veterans Administration (VA), Rater
- 22) Veterans Administration (VA), Suicide Prevention
- 23) Highway Department Information (ID's)
- 24) Hair Stylist
- 25) Hair Stylist
- 26) Lice prevention
- 27) Chaplain

** Clothing will be ready for you outside after you have finished inside with the meal and all of the other services on the upper & lower level.

Map Directory for Project Homeless Connect

- 1) Registration Area
- 2) Agency/ Volunteer Sign-in
- 3) Gate City Bank Bags & ND Housing Finance Agency Pens
- 4) Community Action
- 5) Salvation Army
- 6) Burleigh County Housing
- 7) Morton County Housing
- 8) Ruth Meiers Hospitality House
- 9) Adult Abuse Resource Center
- 10) West Central Human Service Center
- 11) Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry
- 12) Exit Gifts/ donations
- 13) Haircutting Stations Area
- 14) Social Security
- 15) Welcome House
- 16) Dakota Center for Independent Living
- 17) Legal Services of ND
- 18) Burleigh County Social Services
- 19) Bis-Man Transit and CAT
- 20) Youthworks
- 21) Department of Public Instruction
- 22) United Tribes Technical College
- 23) Job Service of ND
- 24) Experience Works
- 25) BECEP/ West River Head start
- 26) Bismarck Public Schools/ Carrie's Kids
- 27) Adult Learning Center
- 28) MSA United Way
- 29) Single Point of Entry/ ND Parole and Probation
- 30) Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- 31) Custer Public Health
- 32) NDSU Extension Family Nutrition Program
- 33) Bridging the Dental Gap
- 34) Medcenter One Nursing
- 35) West Dakota Chapter American Red Cross

TESTIMONY ON HB 1177 - ND VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL.

A veteran is an individual that has signed a blank check in the amount of and up to including his or her life for their country. Good morning, my name is John L. Jacobsen. I am the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the membership of the five Veterans Organizations in North Dakota:

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the veterans of the State of North Dakota. The committee **MUST** concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, the Coordinating Council cannot support HB 1177 in it's present format, but would support it if it were in the original format as an full appropriation rather than a greatly reduced amount.