

HB1211

The North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council supports this legislation.

In 1980 over 15% of the North Dakota's population was made up of veterans. In 2016 The Census Bureau's Community Survey estimated the states veteran's population at 46,507 or about 8%. This sharp decline is due likely to two factors: the larger groups of WWII and Korean veterans have passing away in greater numbers. In 2005 there were an estimated 7,427 WWII veterans and by 2025 that estimate had dropped to 2,056. Secondly the veterans in North Dakota are older than the general population. The current largest group are the Vietnam veterans who are mostly in their 70's. Why is this important in relationship to this legislation? This bill pertains to the Veterans aid fund and the Post War Trust Fund. Monies from these two accounts, in particular Fund 41, enabling the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans by helping with their unmet medical needs by providing them grants for such things as hearing, optical, dental including dentures to mention a few.

With the aging of the Vietnam veterans and the increasing number of Gulf War veterans entering the system there roughly 41,818 veterans in this group indicating an increasing need for these programs

Currently there are restrictions on where investments can be made. This bill would allow the NDDVA, the ACOVA, and the State Treasury would allow investments that would gain the best interest rates while ensuring that they are secure thus allowing for the good stewardship of these funds.

I thank the committee and encourage you to vote due pass on this legislation.

