

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Representative Schauer-Chair**

Chairman Schauer and House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee,  
Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1109.

Intent of this bill...

Provide legal definitions for Military, Armed Forces and Uniform Services in the NDCC

Need for bill...

- The North Dakota Century Code has many references to Military and Armed Forces.
  - No current definition exists
  - With no definition in state law-common definitions apply
- Armed Forces and Military are commonly considered the same. Many states define both as the same.
- There are distinct differences between the Military, Armed Forces and Uniform Services
  - Military: Department of Defense (DOD) branches:
    - Army
    - Marines
    - Navy
    - Air Force
    - Space Force
  - Armed Forces: DOD branches and Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
    - Military +
    - Coast Guard
  - Uniformed Services: DOD, DHS, Department of Health and Human Services (DH&HS) and Department of Commerce
    - Armed Forces +
    - Commissioned Corps of Public Health Services (PHS) under (DH&HS)
      - In ND: Minot, Belcourt, Fort Totten, Fort Yates
    - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under Department of Commerce
- Uniformed Services utilize several different discharge documents
  - Armed Forces use form DD214
    - National Guard uses form NGB22 and DD214-1
  - NOAA uses NOAA 56-16
  - PHS utilized form PHS 1867 for years but is now authorized to issue DD214
- With benefits such as veteran's preference, income tax exemption for retired pay etc. definitions will allow,
  - legislators to better specify who will qualify for specific benefits
  - government employees clear understanding of benefit eligibility
- Many states include PHS and NOAA in their definition and eligibility for veteran benefits

Thank you for your consideration.

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