



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
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Representative Steve Vetter

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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary
Government and Veterans Affairs

01/19/2023

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources. My name is Steve Vetter representing District 18.

This bill allows members of the North Dakota National Guard members that live outside of state to have the in-state hunting/ fishing rights. The North Dakota National is basically the state's militia, our defenders of the state. The mindset behind this type of law is that because if they are willing to fight for the state they should be allowed to take part in the hunting throughout the state. This is not a new concept as this is already a law for active military members.

The biggest reason for this bill is parity. Parity with active members of the military. ND National Guard members just want what federal military members already receive. For example an Airman serving in Minot or Grand Forks even though he/she has residency in another state they are allowed to have in state hunting privileges. Any active military member working in the state is allowed in-state hunting privileges. I would think because we are a very pro-military state, and we should treat our guard members the same as the other armed forces members.

I received the total amount of members of the National Guard that live outside of the state. Which is provided below. However, it is impossible to know how many of these members that live outside of the state that will hunt or fish inside the state if this bill were passed. There will be someone coming after me to confirm the numbers.

This bill originated from a constituent request and a request from a group of National Guard members stationed near me. I believe those that are willing to fight for us should have the ability take advantage of the hunting in our state. This isn't a new concept as this is how federal military members are already treated.

Chairman Members of the Energy & Natural resources committee I would ask for a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you. I will stand for questions.

NDNG members out of ND with Home of Residence with a total of 727 with 561 in Minnesota and 38 in South Dakota.

Fwd: out of state guard members hunting and fishing licenses

Vetter, Steve M. <smvetter@ndlegis.gov>

Fri 1/6/2023 8:56 PM

To: Steve Vetter <steve@eappraisaloffice.com>

From: Sheldon, Jay G MAJ USARMY NG NDARNG (USA) <jay.g.sheldon.mil@army.mil>

Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 4:23 PM

To: Vetter, Steve M. <smvetter@ndlegis.gov>; Kary, Kim K. <kkary@nd.gov>

Subject: out of state guard members hunting and fishing licenses

Rep. Vetter and Kim,

I am including both of you on this email as to ensure you both get identical information. Kim works for Game and Fish and contacted me about data to produce a fiscal note.

I saw the out of state guard member hunting and fishing bill and worry that the inclusion of "former members" is too vague. We do not track former members home of record so to even began to estimate how many people this includes is very difficult.

Did they serve an initial contract and get out or did they serve 20 years and retire?

What was the categorization of the former members separation? Did they separate amicably (honorably) or were they separated for poor behavior or violation of a policy? There are numerous types of military discharge. This could be remedied by including language, "with a discharge categorization of honorable, general, or medical".

Below are the current stats for number of current NDNG members who have a Home of Record (HOR) outside of ND, specifically highlighting surrounding states. I am not sure of anywhere that we could get data on former members living out of ND.

Current members would have a military ID and DOD ID # to prove their membership and past members/retirees would have a DD-214 or NGB 23 as documentation of their service.

Army National Guard

Total – 352 w/HOR outside ND

MN = 258

SD = 22

MT = 17

Other = 55

Air National Guard

Total = 375

MN = 303

SD = 16

MT = 3

NDNG Members with HOR out of ND and in surrounding states

Total = 727

MN = 561

SD = 38