

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Luick-Chair

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1212

Intent of this bill:

Allow certain surviving spouses of a veteran who died of service-connected injuries or illnesses to be eligible for current ND benefits if the veteran have lived longer

- Tuition waiver NDCC 15-10-18.3
- Motor vehicle license plate NDCC 39-04-18 (2)(j)
- Property tax credit NDCC 57-02-08.8
- Vehicle excise tax NDCC 57-40.3-04

Allow 100% disabled veterans and surviving spouse who are eligible for DAV license plate an option to pay for a specialty or vanity license plate. (amendment).

Need for bill:

- Service connected presumptives have been added after death of veteran from that presumptive injury or illness. Example “Blue Water Navy”.
- Veterans and service members sometimes die before a service connection or rating is completed by Federal VA
 - If a veteran had lived long enough to gain this eligibility and applied for the benefits the surviving spouse would have been eligible
- VA determines eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouse.
 - To include eligibility if re-married by a certain age

Outcome

- The surviving spouse, which were the intention of the above benefits, will now have clear eligibility.
- Clear language for ND agencies to utilize in determining eligibility
- VA DIC letter utilized to prove eligibility
 - Federal VA verify eligibility

Fiscal Note:

- Very small fiscal note expected

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA