

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 1389.

Intent of this bill...

Expand eligibility for residence at ND Veterans Home.

Need for bill...

- Character of Service discharge
 - Armed forces (DOD) authorize 6 main Characters of Service
 - 1: Honorable 2: Under Honorable (General) 3: Under Other than Honorable Conditions (Administrative, Medical) 4: Bad Conduct 5: Dishonorable 6: Uncharacterized
 - NDCC 37-01-40 characterizes veterans as those discharged under other than “dishonorable” conditions.
- Do not meet Federal definition of Veteran but are eligible for VA Health Care
 - Active component Armed Service members injured or disabled prior to 180 days of service
 - National Guard or Reserve injured under title 32 or Inactive Duty Training

Outcome of Bill

- Make the above former service members eligible to apply for residency at the ND Veterans Home.
- Increase Veterans home occupancy

This bill may not affect many but for those that it does affect it will be of great significance to their lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA