

SB 2390
February 8, 2023
Submitted by Brian Bartlett, ND AMVETS Commander

Chairperson Larson and Committee Members,

Thank you for your consideration of a Do Not Pass on SB 2390. I am submitting testimony in opposition to this Bill.

My name is Brian Bartlett, I am the State Commander for the AMVETS North Dakota. We enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services.

1. This bill drops payout from 90% to 88% reducing payout by 2% could negatively effect playing time by our patrons. Limiting the payout will reduce playing time by the customer ultimately reducing the amount of monies we are able to donate to our programs and the communities.

Gaming organizations can already choose a lower payout percentage if they desire. Mandating lower limits are not what patrons nor gaming organizations want. Our patrons ask what are games pay out and we are happy to tell them the maximum allowed which is 90% and what we feel is best for us.

2. Mandating who receives moneys from gaming will encourage any interest group or person to input legislation with the attempt to provide funding for their group. This will take away from our mission and ultimately could take monies away for other groups we donate to. Some of our programs that would be effected are:

Americanism - a patriotic program the organization offers schools and youth organizations as a resource for teaching children in kindergarten through 12th grade about their American heritage, civics and citizenship. For 9th grade who participate in the AMVETS Americanism essay contest and are the 1st-place winners from AMVETS Department of North Dakota and Post 20, they will win an all-expense paid trip to “Freedoms Foundation” in Valley Forge, Penn., for the Spirit of America Youth leadership seminar, where they learn about democracy, the judiciary, the political process, the founding documents, and the free enterprise system through innovative workshops and historical site visits that allow you to encounter our nation’s past, present, and future. During your residential stay, they will also build leadership skills, engage in civil discourse, and identify how you can positively impact your community.

917 Constitution Booklets – For the past 3 years ND AMVETS have partnered with the “917 Society” and have provided every 8th grader in the North Dakota with a lasting, durable pocket version of the U.S. Constitution to carry with them as they grow in their citizenship. Each Constitution has the oath of citizenship included on the last page.

Military Funeral Honors
JROTC
VA Volunteer Services
Sponsor Freestyle Greko Roman High School tournament

Other than AMVET programs we also help our communities providing donations to multiple organizations in schools, nursing homes, police department, fire departments, ambulance and first responder services, park and recreations, churches, wild life, scholarships, ND association for the Blind, drug awareness and GABR.

3. Lastly lower allowable expense limit from 60% to 50% will create financial difficulties for gaming organizations. The need to provide higher wages to keep employees plus the costs of expenses are not decreasing. To reduce our allowable expense limit is a deterrent to gaming organizations.

ND AMVETS would like you to consider a **Do Not Pass** on **SB 2390**.

Brian Bartlett
ND AMVETS Commander