



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Steve Vetter

District 18
804 South 17th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241
smvetter@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary
Government and Veterans Affairs

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Chairman 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 & fishing 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 national 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. 727. 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.