



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Paul J. Thomas**

District 6  
P.O. Box 162  
Velva, ND 58790-0162  
[paulthomas@ndlegis.gov](mailto:paulthomas@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Industry, Business and Labor  
Agriculture, Chairman

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Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee

I am Representative Paul Thomas representing District 6 in North Central North Dakota. Bill number 1150 simply exempts a retired military service member who has served at least 20 years in any branch of the armed forces of the United States on full-time active duty and retired with full military retirement benefits before becoming a licensed teacher to be exempt from participating in the TFFR if they are in their first year of teaching.

A constituent in District 6 who is currently teaching asked me to bring this bill to the Legislature. In conversations with this retired military member as well as conversations I have previously had with school administrators in my district concerning the difficulty in hiring teachers piqued my interest to introduce this bill. I believe retired military personnel in our region may have a growing interest in bringing their skill sets to potentially be teachers at our Career and Technical Education Centers. It is my understanding from the hearing and report we had in Employee Benefits Committee that this will have negligible effect on the solvency of the TFFR fund due to the very limited number of participants that will qualify for this narrow exemption.