

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Pat George- excused

Representative Joe Seiwert- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Barbara Lewerenz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Tafanelli, along with Representative Crow and Representative Meier, introduced a resolution to encourage officials not to relocate Guantanamo detainees in Kansas; a bill to create a strip of land around military installations for a greater stand-off; and a bill to create a medallion and certificate program to recognize Kansas Vietnam Veterans and Vietnam Veterans, who were Kansas residents during the Vietnam Era, but currently are not Kansas residents. Moved by Representative Tafanelli, seconded by Representative Goico. Motion Carried.

Representative Meier introduced a bill to extend lifetime fishing and hunting licenses to active military members who plan to make their residence in Kansas, but did not enter into the military in the state of Kansas. Moved by Representative Meier, seconded by Representative Goyle. Motion Carried. Representative Goyle commented that this would enhance revenues for Kansas.

Representative Meier introduced a bill to allow members of the military to obtain a Conceal Carry License while on active duty by furnishing military identification and a license to operate a motor vehicle from another state (without giving up that license to secure a Kansas license as the law now requires). Moved by Representative Meier, seconded by Representative Goyle. Motion Carried.

Representative Crow introduced a resolution to amend Article 10 of the Kansas Constitution to ensure that nonresident military personnel and nonresident students are counted in the census. Moved by Representative Crow, seconded by Representative Aurand. Motion Carried. Representative Crow suggested that the current method of counting the population reflects fewer people living in the state than the actual number and that additional revenue could be gained if the census count included these segments of the population.

Representative Goico introduced a bill to add "Legion of Merit" to the current list of license plate decals. It should be similar to those awarded "Silver Star" and "Gold Star" recipients. Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Goyle. Motion Carried.

Representative Craft introduced a resolution to designate a month, probably October, as "Agent Orange Month." Moved by Representative Craft, seconded by Representative Goyle. Motion Carried.

Chairman Myers reminded the Committee that January 29, the date of the next Veterans Military and Homeland Security Committee Meeting, will be the last date for the Committee to request bill drafts and that February 5 will be the last meeting date for Committee Bill Introductions.

The Chairman announced that at the January 29 meeting, Mr. Jack Walker, Garrison Commander's Office, Ft. Leavenworth, will present an overview of "The Mission of the Military in Kansas." He will be accompanied by three majors. Guest speaker, Bonnie Templeton, will present her research on Kansas military personnel designated as "Missing in Action."

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

