

SESSION OF 2009

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2171**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Federal and State Affairs

**Brief\***

HB 2171 deals with the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

HB 2171, as amended, would create, within the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA), the Vietnam War Era Medallion Program. Under the Medallion Program, eligible veterans would receive a medallion, medal, and a certificate of appreciation.

To be eligible for participation in the Medallion Program, the veteran must:

- Have served on active duty in the United States Military Service at any time beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975;
- Be a legal resident of Kansas or have been a legal resident of Kansas at the time the veteran entered or was discharged from military service or at the time of the veteran's death; and
- Have been honorably separated or discharged from the military or still be on active service in an honorable status, or was in active service at the time of the veteran's death.

The Program would be open to veterans meeting the above criteria regardless of whether or not the veteran served within the United States or in a foreign country; and regardless

---

\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

of whether or not the veteran was under eighteen years of age at the time of enlistment.

The bill would create a fund within the State Treasury consisting of all gifts, donations, and bequests to the fund. The fund would be administered by the KCVA.

HB 2171 would add language into existing law clarifying those employees of the KCVA needing to be cross-accredited by veterans service organizations receiving grants under the Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP). The bill also would clarify the continuing education requirements for the employees being cross-accredited.

Additionally, the bill would change the membership composition of the Veterans Claims Assistance Advisory Board from three members appointed by veterans service organizations to a requirement that any veterans' service organization participating in VCAP must appoint one member.

Finally, the bill would require appointees to the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs to have received an honorable discharge from military service via their military discharge papers (Form DD 214).

## **Background**

The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs amended HB 2267, as amended, and HB 2085 into HB 2171 and retained the provisions of HB 2171.

HB 2267, HB 2085, and HB 2171 were introduced by the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at the request of Representative Lee Tafanelli, Representative Raj Goyle, and the KCVA.

The fiscal note on the original HB 2171 indicated that the cost of the Vietnam War Era Medallion Program in FY 2010 would be \$118,485, with similar amounts being spent in the

succeeding years. KCVA expects similar amounts to be spent in FY 2011 and FY 2012.

The fiscal notes on the original HB 2085 and HB 2267 indicated that there would be no fiscal impact resulting from the passage of the bills.