

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND  
SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on March 21, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused  
Representative Marti Crow- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research  
Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mark Tomb, League of Kansas Municipalities  
George Webb, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs  
Wayne Bolig, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee would continue with the working process of the **Substitute for HB 2562 - Veterans preference in employment.**

An informational written only piece of testimony was distributed to the Committee from Lt. Col. Craig Beardsley (Ret.), President of the National Guard Association of Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized Revisor, Art Griggs who reviewed the changes from yesterday now appearing on the new 3/21 11AM version of the **Substitute for HB 2562.** (Attachment 2)

Chairman Myers pointed out an additional piece of written information provided to the Committee from Ed Klumpp. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Myers recognized Mark Tomb who spoke in favor of veterans preference yet opposed some things in this Substitute bill. He stated that page 3 letter e was okay for the State but could be a burden for smaller cities and their hiring process. There was also concern noted regarding the 30 days notice and he suggested removing sections e and f.

Chairman Myers noted that there are 627 cities within the State of Kansas with 510 of those considered 3<sup>rd</sup> class having fewer than 2,000 people, 92 of them considered 2<sup>nd</sup> class having between 2,000 and 15,000, and 25 of them considered 1st class having over 15,000. It was noted that 528 of the 627 cities are members of the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative Johnson, page 3 line 18 after job openings add 'comma (,) if any(,) comma' and after employment add 'comma (,) if any (,)comma.'

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative Goico page 3 line 24 to delete the words 'city and county.'

Motion withdrawn.

Representative Goico moved, seconded by Representative Ruff page 2 line 1 after the word with, to remove 'the rank of major or naval lieutenant commander or above, or'.

Motion carried.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on March 21, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative Ruff to amend page 3 section e, lines 18 thru 29 to read as follows:

All notices of job openings, if any, and all applications for employment, if any, by the state and any city or county in this state shall state that the job is subject to a veteran's preference, how the preference works and how veterans may take advantage of the preference and at least 30 days prior to announcing the intent to fill a position, a written statement of: (1) The minimum qualifications for such position; (2) any preferred qualifications of such position; (3) performance standards for the position; and (4) the process that will be used for selection. A veteran desiring to use veteran's preference shall provide the hiring authority with a copy of the veteran's DD214 form.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Goico to keep the definition of competent but add an additional paragraph on page 2 following line 8 to read as follows:

The basis for such determination shall include experience, training, education, licensure, certification, and/or other factors determined by the decision making authority as appropriate to determine the applicant's overall qualifications and ability to successfully meet the performance standards of the position. The decision making authority shall document such factors prior to the initiation of the selection process.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Lukert to review his displeasure as to part of the bill. Representative Lukert reiterated his uneasiness with inclusion of the veterans preference regarding promotions.

Representative Proehl stated that throughout all of this he wanted to be certain the veterans were not being hurt or a disservice being done to them.

Chairman Myers asked George Webb to speak on behalf of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs as to how he felt thus far about the bill. Mr. Webb suggested that the bill state armed forces rather than armed services and he requested not to eliminate retired.

Mr. Webb also suggested using 'retired from the military with the exception of those military personnel who have been retired for medical reasons due to wounds received in combat.'

Representative Ruff moved to accept the wording 'retired from the military with the exception of those military personnel who have been retired for medical reasons due to wounds received in combat.'  
Representative Craft seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers recognized Wayne Bolig who stated that the veterans are pleased that the bill seems to be addressing many of their concerns and he is very appreciative of the opportunities he has had to participate.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Wilk that on page 2 line 21, strike 'every public department and upon all public works of' and in line 22 strike the second 'of' and replace it with the word 'in.'

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Lukert to replace armed services with armed forces and add coast guard after force on page 2 line 11.

Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on March 21, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Revisor Art Griggs presented a "Revisor's amendment" on page 3 line 33 changing the word original to initial then striking the two words 'any initial' and replacing them with 'the first.' Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Spalding to accept the noted changes.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Colloton, seconded by Representative Craft on page 3 line 26 to drop the word minimum.

Motion carried.

Representative Goico moved to pass **Substitute for HB 2562** as amended favorably out of Committee.

Motion withdrawn.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative Colloton on page 3 line 30 strike the words 'human resource or' and in line 31 after the word county add the words ' human resource department, if any,'.

Motion carried.

Representative Goico moved to pass **Substitute for HB 2562** as amended favorably out of Committee. Seconded by Representative Spalding.

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.