

SESSION OF 2014

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 5031**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

Brief*

HCR 5031 would urge the U.S. Congress to provide sufficient funding to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce the current backlog and provide prompt awarding and payment of disability benefits to U.S. veterans.

The resolution makes a number of findings, including the following:

- There are over 233,000 veterans in Kansas and over 4,000 Kansas veterans are waiting to receive their disability ratings;
- Over 2,000 Kansas veterans have waited more than 125 days to receive their disability rating; and
- The average time a veteran must wait for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to determine a disability compensation claim exceeds 150 days.

Background

HCR 5031 was introduced by the Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at the request of Representative Alcala who testified in favor of the bill at the House Committee hearing and indicated that with over two million veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and

*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>

many returning to Kansas, it is important for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to expedite their decision making process for determining disability ratings.

There was no neutral or opponent testimony.

No fiscal note was issued on the concurrent resolution.