

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 20, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Delia Garcia- excused
Representative Raj Goyle- excused
Representative Lee Tapanelli - excused
Representative Clay Aurand - excused

Committee staff present:

Barbara Lewerenz, Administrative Assistant
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dylan Dear, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Wayne Bollig, Director of Veterans' Services, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Seiwert and seconded by Representative Crow for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held January 15, 2009. Motion Carried.

The Chairman called for bill introductions.

Vice Chairman Goico requested introduction of two bills. The first is to clean up a bill that amends language regarding eligibility requirements relative to the Veterans' Claims Assistance Program. The second bill pertains to the membership of the Veterans' Claims Assistance Advisory Board. Representative Goico moved the introduction, seconded by Representative Wolf. Motion accepted by Chairman

Chairman Myers requested clarification on the need to extend the authorization allowing hunting and fishing licenses, at no charge, for disabled veterans that was effective January 1, 2009. Conferee, Wayne Bollig, reported that over 300 licenses had been issued so far this year.

Chairman Myers introduced Conferee Scott Wells who presented an overview of 2008 Enacted Legislation by The House Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee. The legislation included an amendment to define the term veteran and veterans preference rights; designation of a security liaison for each agency within the capitol complex; benefits for employees of the state of Kansas who are called to active duty; clarification that hunting and fishing licenses provided disabled veterans is for the 2009 calendar year only; the deferral of property taxes for deployed full-time military personnel; license plates for veteran owned vehicles; power of attorney issues associated with the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs; and the distribution of funds from the sale of an instant lottery scratch-off game designed to benefit veterans.

Chairman Myers introduced Conferee Dylan Dear, who reviewed a budget draft of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. (Attachment 1). The agency estimates current year expenditures to be 4.2 percent above the amount approved by the 2008 Legislature. The Governor recommends no more than a 2 percent increase. Conferee Wayne Bollig commented that a reduction in funding veterans' programs impacts services to veterans as well as the economy of the state.

The next meeting is on January 22, 2009. Conferees are Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, and Lisa Hoopes, Senior Audit Supervisor from the Office of the Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.

