



House Veterans Affairs Division Report on Division Activities

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Rep. Paul Rosenthal

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Rep. Peter Fischer
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Rep. Fue Lee
Rep. John Lesch
Rep. Dale Lueck
Rep. Erin Maye Quade
Rep. Tim O'Driscoll
Rep. Marion O'Neill
Rep. John Poston
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March 13, 2017

House of Representatives Speaker Kurt Daudt
Majority Leader Joyce Peppin
Minority Leader Melissa Hortman
State Government Finance Committee Chair Sarah Anderson

The House Veterans Affairs Division held 10 meetings prior to the second committee deadline. We heard 42 bills as well as presentations from the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, veterans organizations comprising the Commander's Task Force, and other groups that serve our veterans.

Below is a detailed listing of the bills we heard and the organizations that gave a presentation to the House Veterans Affairs Division.

HF16 (Sheldon Johnson) Past military service credit modified

HF17 (Sheldon Johnson) Disabled veterans exempted from motor vehicle registration tax

HF51 (Sheldon Johnson) Disabled veteran's exclusion modified

HF79 (Greg Davids) Fillmore County; veterans home funding provided, nonstate contributions allowed, bonds issued, and money

HF119 (Bob Dettmer) Deceased veteran's spouse benefit eligibility modified

HF127 (Bob Dettmer) Vietnam: Minnesota Remembers public television project funding provided, and money appropriated

HF232 (Bob Dettmer) Veterans Rest Camp and Camp Legionville facility improvement funding provided, and money appropriated

HF261 (Tim O'Driscoll) De-escalation technique training for community safety personnel funding provided, and money appropriated

HF270 (Keith Franke) Military veterans jobs tax credit

HF321 (Ben Lien) Eligible veterans with a disability provided exemptions from various taxes and fees

HF368 (Matt Bliss) Assignment of military pay or benefits prohibited, and penalties and remedies provided

HF375 (Chris Swedzinski) County board allowed to appropriated money for a veterans memorial anywhere in the county

HF505 (Bob Dettmer) Veterans defense project grant funding provided, and money appropriated

HF555 (Bob Dettmer) Congressionally chartered veterans organizations reduced class rate provided

HF647 (Bob Dettmer) Vietnam: Minnesota Remembers project public television funding provided, and money appropriated

HF667 (Brian Daniels) Faribault; Rice County Veterans Memorial funding provided, and money appropriated

HF685 (Mark Uglem) State park passes issued without a fee to military members and disabled veterans conditions modified

HF728 (Debra Hilstrom) Veterans support funding provided, veterans nursing home tax credit provided, and money appropriated

HF755 (Bob Dettmer) Minnesota Medal of Honor commemorative memorial funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated

HF910 (Debra Hilstrom) Disabled veterans homestead created maximum exclusion amount extended to veterans with a 100 percent temporary disability rating, and maximum excluded amount increased to \$400,000

HF936 (Rob Ecklund) Bear-hunting permit lottery preference modified

HF965 (Erin Maye Quade) Capitol grounds plaque placement authorized in the court of honor to honor all Minnesota veterans who served in the United States armed forces during World War I

HF1059 (Jeff Howe) Disabled veterans homestead exclusion annual application requirement eliminated

HF1096 (Erin Maye Quade) Spousal benefit under the disabled veterans homestead exclusion extended to surviving spouses of veterans with a 70 percent disability rating or higher, and eight year limitation on the spousal benefit eliminated

HF1109 (Tim Miller) Montevideo and Bemidji; veterans homes funding provided, nonstate contributions allowed, bonds issued, and money appropriated

HF1209 (Tony Cornish) Veterans benefit service disclosure requirements provided, and veterans affairs commissioner required to develop a disclosure statement

HF1223 (John Poston) Military and veteran eligibility requirements for permits and licenses modified

HF1318 (John Poston) Veterans preference in hiring in the legislature and state courts established

HF1348 (Erin Maye Quade) Past military service credit expanded

HF1438 (Matt Bliss) Veterans Journey Home grant funding provided, and money appropriated

HF 1526 (Matt Bliss) Veterans Journey Home grant funding provided, and money appropriated

HF1527 (Matt Bliss) Support Our Troops account money use modified

HF1563 (Paul Rosenthal) Equine Innovations grant provided for its veteran horsepower program to provide equine therapy to veterans suffering from trauma and PTSD, and money appropriated

HF1597 (Jeff Howe) State veterans cemetery burial fee for spouses and dependents of eligible veterans removed

HF1682 (Matt Bliss) Veterans' Voice radio programming funding provided, and money appropriated

HF1799 (Paul Rosenthal) Past military service credit modified

HF1892 (Jeff Howe) Military member clarified, and veterans added to offense of impersonation

HF1893 (Jeff Howe) Military pay and military retirement pay subtractions extended to military technicians

HF2011 (Dale Lueck) June 29 designated as General John Vessey Day, State Capitol General John Vessey statue placement required, and money appropriated

HF2164 (Jeff Howe) State veterans cemeteries reduced-cost burials to eligible dependents of veterans who are low income provided

HF 2206 (Fue Lee) New state holiday to recognize Hmong people who assisted the United States during the Vietnam War established

HF 2276 (John Poston) Atomic Veterans day July 16 designation

Groups that presented to the House Veterans Affairs Division were:

- Department of Military Affairs
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- County Veterans Service Officers Association
- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Civil Air Patrol
- Disabled American Veterans
- Marine Corps League
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- United Veterans Legislative Council
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

On behalf of the House Veterans Affairs Division, we are appreciative of the opportunity to raise awareness of issues facing our veterans, hear presentations from organizations that provide services to veterans, and consider legislation designed to help our veterans.

Sincerely,



Representative Bob Dettmer, Chair



John Hultquist, Committee Administrator



Jeremy Hansen, Committee Legislative Assistant