

66TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2019

VETERAN & MILITARY RELATED LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Appreciation of Veterans and Military

- POW/MIA Flag to be flown daily on the ND State Capitol Grounds (HB 1056)
 - Immediately south of the State Capitol Building
 - In front of the all Veterans Memorial
 - On the east side of the Heritage Center
- Patriots Day designated for the third Monday in April each year (HB 1169)
 - Commemorate the start of the American Revolutionary War and the battles of Lexington and Concord (shot heard around the world)
 - Governor to make proclamation each year
- Veterans Memorial Highway (HB 1404)
 - Designates ND Highway 22 as “Veterans Memorial Highway”
 - Signs to be placed along highway
 - ND Department of Transportation may accept and expend donations for this project
- Honor Flight. ND House and Senate Show appreciation for ND and MN Honor Flights (HCR 3019)
- Honor Fallen Armed Forces Veterans ND House and Senate show appreciation (HCR 3023)
- US Flag to be displayed in Memorial Hall of Capitol at all times (HCR 3033)

Burial & Memorial

- ND Commemorative Memorial coin can be purchased by any person
 - (removed restriction to family only)
 - Sale of coins are exempt from state sales tax
- Spouse of Veteran Burial Benefits at ND Veterans Cemetery (SB 2195)
 - Provides \$175,000 to defray the cost of interring spouse of veteran
 - Program period: March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Education

- ND National Guard Tuition Waiver to be effective upon initial appointment into the National Guard (HB 1046)

Employment

- Employment protection for National Guard members called up for state emergencies. Expanded to include ND employees as members of National Guard in other states. (HB 1095)
- Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (HB 1337)

- Allows military members and spouses (and other) with emergency medical licensures to be recognized and allowed to assist in medical emergencies in states with this compact
- Military Spouse Licensure & Permit and Interstate Compacts (SB 2059, SB 2126, SB 2127, SB 2173 SB 2306)
 - Provides exemptions, compacts and quicker licensure or permit for military spouses transferred to North Dakota
- Veterans Preference (SB 2314)
 - Removes “Wartime” and “ND Residency” requirement
 - Adds Honorably discharged ND National Guard or Reserve members with at least 20 years of service or served in a combat zone.

Fiscal Impact Bills

- Tax Exempt Military Retirement Pay (HB1053)
 - Exempt from State Income Tax effective for taxable years after 12/31/2018
- Income Tax Check-off box to contribute to the Veterans Post War Trust Fund (HB 1248)
 - Allow ND tax payers to contribute to PWTF when filing state income tax
 - Effective for taxable years after 12/31/2018
- Adjusted Compensation (known as war bonus) extended from ending 6/30/2019 to 6/30/2021 (SB 2097)
 - For service between December 5, 1992 and June 30, 2021
- ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget
 - Continue \$50,000 grant for service dogs to Veterans with PTSD (HB 1025 and HB 1128)
 - Continue funding for one DAV transportation Van \$18,800 (HB 1025 and HB 1168)
 - Added funding for Stand Down Grants \$5,000 (HB 1025 and HB 1178)
- Expand ND Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Aid Loan Program to persons with a VA disability rating who do not meet the NDCC 37-01-40 definition of a Veteran (SB 2314)

Healthcare

- Hyperbaric Oxygenation Treatment Pilot (HB 1359 and SB 2012)
 - Provides \$335,000 to ND Human Services for a pilot study of HBOT for Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Hyperbaric Oxygenation Treatment. Resolution to urge US Congress to provide veterans with Medical coverage for HBOT therapy (HCR 3018)
- Expand ND Department of Veterans Affairs Grants for Hearing, Optical, Dental/Denture and other medical to persons with a VA disability rating who do not meet the NDCC 37-01-40 definition of a Veteran (SB 2314)

Law/Policy Change

- North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council Name Change to North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council (HB 1054)
- ND National Guard Adjutant General allowed to Accept and Expend donations, gifts, grants or bequests (HB 1101)
 - From private or Federal organizations
 - For ND Service member, Veteran, family and Survivor Support Program
- ND Department of Veterans Affairs allowed to work with Public and Private entities to serve ND Veterans and their families (HB 1129)
- ND Department of Veterans Affairs allowed to Solicit, Accept and Expend donations, gifts, grants or bequests from any public or private entity (HB 1131)
- ND Department of Veterans Affairs file access (HB 1316)
 - Updated verbiage of NDCC 37-18-11 on protection and access to veteran files
- ND National Guard Deputy Adjutant appointment: Must have 3 years commissioned service in ND National Guard prior to be appointment. Currently was 5 years. (SB 2097)
- County Veteran Service officers to be accredited by the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers or the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs within 12 months of appointment as CVSO (SB 2314)
 - Previously only NACVSO accreditation required and no timeline set

Studies

- Veterans Affairs (HCR 3047)
 - Interim study of Veterans Affairs. Mirrors the Governors Task Force on Veterans Affairs.