



## House Veterans Affairs Division Report on Division Activities

April 16, 2018

### **Chair**

Representative Bob Dettmer  
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### **Vice Chair**

Rep. Matt Bliss

### **Ranking Minority Member**

Rep. Paul Rosenthal

### **Members**

Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn  
Rep. Greg Davids  
Rep. Peter Fischer  
Rep. Keith Franke  
Rep. Fue Lee  
Rep. John Lesch  
Rep. Dale Lueck  
Rep. Erin Maye Quade  
Rep. Tim O'Driscoll  
Rep. Marion O'Neill  
Rep. John Poston  
Rep. Laurie Pryor

### **Committee Staff:**

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#### **Research**

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#### **House Research**

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#### **Fiscal Analyst**

Helen Roberts

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 eight meetings in 2018. We heard 24 bills as well as presentations from:

- Organizations serving veterans who received legislative funding last year for their programs,
- Departments of Military Affairs, Veterans Affairs and Minnesota Historical Society capital investment requests,
- State agency employment programs for veterans,
- Department of Veterans Affairs on the process for gaining approval of a new veterans home(s), which was a joint hearing with the Senate.

During the 2017-18 biennium, the House Veterans Affairs Division held a total of 18 meetings and heard 66 bills.

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

#### 2018:

HF 1123 (Jim Davnie), Homestead valuation exclusion increased for disabled veterans

HF 2788 (Bob Dettmer), Military recruiters required access to secondary schools for career fairs

HF 2869 (Jeff Howe), National Guard Members provided access to information on state-sponsored life insurance

HF 2907 (Jeff Howe), Data sharing between CVSOs and County Assessors permitted to verify disabled veteran's homestead market value exclusion eligibility

HF 2908 (Anna Wills), Designating U.S. Highway 52 bridge in Rosemount Warrant Officer Dennis A. Groth Memorial Bridge

HF 3009 (John Poston), Funding provided to Centers for Independent Living for services to veterans

HF 3199 (John Poston), Military code clarified

HF 3212 (Anne Neu), National Guard active service pay clarified for staffing armory rentals

HF 3213 (Jeremy Munson), National Guard responsibility over armories and armory rentals clarified

HF 3278 (Bob Dettmer), Military code supersedes local ordinances

HF 3387 (Jeff Howe), Veterans benefits services disclosure repealed from advertising

HF 3429 (Bob Dettmer), Disabled veterans homestead exclusion spousal benefit 8-year limit removed; one-time change of residence allowed

HF 3477 (Matt Bliss), Purple Heart Cities and Counties authorized

HF 3503 (Paul Torkelson), Disabled veterans' eligibility for homestead value exclusion expanded

HF 3507 (Dale Lueck), Veteran status added to State's open appointments

HF 3672 (Sheldon Johnson), Tax credit increased for past military service; disability rating decreased for eligibility

HF 3750 (Keith Franke), GI Bill statutory language recodified and technical changes made

HF 3912 (Jim Davnie), Bonding \$26 million for Minneapolis Veterans Home expansion

HF 3934 (Anna Wills), Military retirement pay subtraction modified for veterans who were also employed in civil service

HF 4057 (Julie Sandstede), Refunds for disabled veterans tax exclusion for taxes paid; application due date deadline extended

HF 4100 (Bob Dettmer), Adopt a cemetery program in MN Historical Society for abandoned cemeteries

HF 4225 (Cindy Pugh), Commemorative ribbon and medallion for Korean War Veterans

HF 4362 (Bob Dettmer), Fort Snelling Upper Post residential housing project

SF 1703 (John Poston), July 16 designated as Atomic Veterans Day (returned to Committee per House Rule 4.20) Sent back to General Register

Presentations to the House Veterans Affairs Division in 2018:

- Department of Military Affairs capital investment requests
- Department of Veterans Affairs capital investment requests
- Minnesota Historical Society Fort Snelling capital investment request
- American Legion presentation on upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- United Veterans Legislative Council legislative update
- Minnesota Remembers Vietnam funding update
- Minnesota Medal of Honor funding update
- Veterans Voices funding update
- Camp Legionville funding update
- Veterans Rest Camp funding update

- Veterans Defense Fund funding update
- Veterans Journey Home funding update
- Minnesota Management and Budget veterans recruitment, hiring and retention program
- Department of Employment and Economic Development veterans hiring program
- Department of Veterans Affairs process for federal approval of a new veterans home (joint hearing with the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Policy and Finance Committee)
- Fourth Judicial District Hennepin County Veterans Court

2017:

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

Presentations to the House Veterans Affairs Division in 2017:

- 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



Justin Koob, Committee Legislative Assistant

