

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS DIVISION

**MINUTES**

Representative Bliss, Co-Chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Division, called the meeting to order at 8:15AM on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, in Room G23 of the State Capitol Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

**Members Present:**

BLISS, Matt (Co-Chair)  
OLSON, Bjorn (Co-Vice Chair)  
XIONG, Jay (Co-Chair)  
REHRAUER, Kari (Co-Vice Chair)  
BENNETT, Peggy  
CLARDY, Mary Frances  
DAVIS, Ben  
DURAN, Bidal  
FEIST, Sandra  
HILL, Josiah  
LEE, Xp  
REPINSKI, Aaron

A Quorum was present.

Representative Bliss moved the minutes of February 18, 2026, be approved. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Vice Chair Olson assumed the gavel at 8:17 AM

**HF 3540 (Bliss) Protection for veterans provided in the Minnesota Human Rights Act.**

Vice Chair Olson moved HF3540 be re-referred to the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

Co Chair Xiong moved the H3540A2 amendment. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

**Testifiers:**

Nick Slade, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Military Affairs  
Jon Kelly, Director of Government Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Vice Chair Olson renewed the motion that HF3540, as amended, be re-referred to the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Chair Bliss assumed the gavel at 8:32 AM

**HF 3522 (Duran) Commissioner of veterans affairs allowed to close veterans homes under certain circumstances.**

Chair Bliss moved HF3522 be placed on the General Register

**Testifiers:**

Jon Kelly, Director of Government Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Chair Bliss renewed the motion that HF3522 be placed on the General Register. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

**HF 3544 (Repinski) Certain veterans or former members of the armed forces who have forfeited federal benefits made ineligible for state-funded benefits, services, or programs; and environmental hazards information and assistance program for veterans discontinued.**

Chair Bliss moved HF3544 be re-referred to Health Policy and Finance Committee

**Testifiers:**

Jon Kelly, Director of Government Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Chair Bliss renewed the motion that HF3544 be re-referred to Health Policy and Finance Committee. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

**Presentation from the Commanders Task Force on 2026 Legislative Priorities**

Presenters:

Stewart Mednick, Commanders Task Force Chair and Commander of the Jewish War Veterans  
Barry Henriksen, Veterans of Foreign Wars Adjutant / Quartermaster

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 AM

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Representative Bliss, Co-Chair

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Jacob Alm, Committee Legislative Assistant