

**VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Representative Jerry Newton, Chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Finance & Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M., on February 26, 2024 in Room 5 of the State Office Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

**Members present:**

NEWTON, Jerry, Chair  
ELKINS, Steve, Vice-Chair  
BLISS, Matt, Minority Lead  
BENNETT, Peggy  
CLARDY, Mary Frances  
COULTER, Nathan  
GREENMAN, Emma  
HUDELLA, Shane  
NORRIS, Matt  
OLSON, Bjorn  
WIENS, Mark

**Members excused:**

LISLEGARD, Dave

A quorum was present.

Representative Norris moved that the minutes from March 27, 2023, be approved. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Overview of session priorities from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Presenters:

- Commissioner Brad Lindsey, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- Legislative Director, Ben Johnson, (MDVA)
- Deputy Commissioner, Eric Meittonen (MDVA)

Overview of session priorities from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Presenters:

- Nathaniel Saltz, Chief Program Officer, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)

HF3870 (Olson, B) Armory provisions modified.

Chair Newton moved that HF3870 be referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Representative Olson, B presented HF3870.

Chair Newton renewed the motion that HF3870 be referred to the Committee on Capital Investment. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

HF3790 (Wiens) Reporting on grants issued by the commissioner of veterans' affairs required.

Chair Newton moved that HF3790 be laid over for possible inclusion in a Veterans' and Military Affairs omnibus.

Representative Wiens presented HF3790.

Chair Newton renewed the motion that HF3790 be laid over for possible inclusion in a Veterans' and Military Affairs omnibus.

HF1666 (Hudella) Veteran service officers authorized to receive vital records without a fee.

Chair Newton moved that HF1666 be laid over for possible inclusion in a Veterans' and Military Affairs omnibus.

Representative Hudella presented HF1666.

Testifiers:

- Greg Peterson, Director of Veterans Service, Brown County VSO
- John Baker, Executive Director, (MACVSO)

Chair Newton renewed the motion that HF1666 be laid over for possible inclusion in a Veterans' and Military Affairs omnibus.

HF3746 (Hill) Hometown Hero Outdoors grant funding provided, and money appropriated.

This bill is being heard on an informational basis.

Representative Hill presented HF3746.

Testifiers:

- Christopher Tetrault
- Chris Urman
- Brian Chaffee
- Erik Mossberg
- Jason Kuehn
- Shane Libera

HF3505 (Knudsen) Property tax provisions modified, and exclusion amount increased for homesteads of veterans with disabilities.

This bill is being heard on an informational basis.

Representative Knudsen presented HF3505.

Testifiers:

- Trent Dilks, Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota
- Brad Williams, Licensed Realtor and Mortgage Broker
- Greg Peterson, Director of Veterans Service, Brown County VSO

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

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Representative Jerry Newton, Chair

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Robin Schmidt, Committee Legislative Assistant