

15.0657.04000

FISCAL NOTE STATEMENT

Senate Bill or Resolution No. SB 2238

This bill or resolution appears to affect revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of counties, cities, school districts, or townships. However, no state agency has primary responsibility for compiling and maintaining the information necessary for the proper preparation of a fiscal note regarding this bill or resolution. Pursuant to Joint Rule 502, this statement meets the fiscal note requirement.

Sheila Sandness
Senior Fiscal Analyst

15.0657.03000

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Senior Fiscal Analyst

2015 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2238

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2238
1/29/2015
Job # 22775

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for veterans' military caskets.

Minutes:

Attachments 1-3

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on SB 2238.

Senator Marcellais, District 9: See Attachment #1 for testimony as sponsor and in support of the bill.

(4:10)Chairman Dever: I think last session the appropriation was \$2.9 million?

Senator Marcellais: It was 2.8 million. That came about with the caskets being \$2800 each and an estimated loss of 1000 veterans to be lost in the next two years.

Chairman Dever: Do you know if local funeral owners stock these caskets?

Senator Marcellais: I do not believe they do but the plan is that they do stock them for each branch of service and then replenish the caskets as the use them.

Chairman Dever: Do you recall the history of this bill?

Senator Marcellais: It passed out of this committee and the Senate chamber and then it failed in House.

Chairman Dever: We had a conversation about welfare burials through the county, was that part of this discussion?

Senator Marcellais: Yes it was. (See attachment #2 - Reads the testimony)

(8:07)Chairman Dever: I think you arrived at the \$2.8 million assuming 1000 per year?

Senator Marcellais: Yes. It is just an estimate.

Chairman Dever: What happens if it is more than that? Does the bill require it to be paid?

Senator Marcellais: There are no requirements to be paid. It is on a need basis. These are social services caskets. As an honor guard for the American Legion, I have gone to many military funerals in our area and there were well decorated veterans with medals from their time in the service and they were put in what we would call welfare caskets and I just feel they should have been put in a military casket.

Chairman Dever: The \$2.8 million on a biennial basis would be \$500,000 per year.

Senator Marcellais: Yes.

Senator Flakoll: Could they request to have this casket if they cost the same amount as the welfare casket? Or do they not allow that?

Senator Marcellais: I do not believe they have ever asked for a military casket and I do not believe that social services is aware that the military casket costs the same as the social services casket.

(10:30) Bonnie Staiger, North Dakota Funeral Directors Association: See attachment #3 for testimony in support

(12:50)Chairman Dever: Do you know how the cost of this military casket compares to a standard casket?

Bonne Staiger: I will defer that to a professional.

Paul Sannes, Goetz Funeral Home in Washburn: The casket cost that Senator Marcellais is very comparable to the average casket in North Dakota. Possibly even a little bit higher.

Chairman Dever: Do you get requests for specialized veteran's caskets?

Paul Sannes: We do not get asked for a specialized veteran's casket per say. There are various caskets that can be selected that specializing that can be done for a particular branch of service.

Chairman Dever: If you did not in inventory, how long would it take you to get?

Paul Sannes: It depends to the location or supplier and where they are going to be stocked. I don't know that we would have great luck in funeral homes stocking them due to space constraints.

Senator Davison: Can you tell me the difference in price from the welfare caskets and these?

Paul Sannes: Traditionally a welfare casket is ballpark around \$1500 to \$1600. Of course you have to look at the comparable construction etc. A welfare casket is a 20 gauge no sealing metal casket. I do not know what the veteran caskets are constructed of.

Senator Nelson: Are there such things as military urns? How much are they?

Paul Sannes: Absolutely. There are several different types and they can range from \$400 to \$600 average.

Senator Davison: In a typical funeral is it normal that the cost of picking up a casket would be included in the cost of the funeral?

Paul Sannes: Yes it is factored in the cost of the casket.

Senator Nelson: On the casket with corners is it straight military or are there different branches available?

Paul Sannes: Yes they are all available. They are called life symbols. The branch symbols come in medallions.

Al Dohrmann, Deputy Adjutant General: Testified in neutral position on the bill. Our main concern with the bill is the fact that the Adjutant General is written into it as the one that would select and administer the program. We have about 400+ burials at the veteran's cemetery a year. We do not have visibility on the other portion of the veterans that are buried in cemeteries outside of the North Dakota veteran's cemetery. It would be challenging for us to administer the program with our existing administrative support that we have. We have had some conversations NDVA on whether the commissioner of veteran's affairs of North Dakota and the county veteran's service officers that form that network across the state of North Dakota would be in a better position to administer the program. I cannot speak for them.

Chairman Dever: I understand your concern. Closed the hearing on SB 2238.

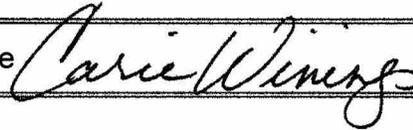
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2238
1/29/2015
Job # 22839

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

No Attachments

Chairman Dever: Opened SB 2238 for committee discussion.

Senator Nelson: I have two issues. Do we need to add "or urn" after military casket and do we need to take out the Adjutant General? He did not sound too thrilled with being referenced in the bill and responsible for it.

Chairman Dever: You are referring to the reference in line 6?

Senator Nelson: Yes.

Senator Marcellais: He recommended county vets reps instead of the AG.

Chairman Dever: I do not think we appropriate money directly to counties. So you are referring to the Department of Veteran's Affairs?

Senator Marcellais: Yes, and he is the supervisor over the county vets reps.

Chairman Dever: Any other changes you would like to see on the bill?

Senator Nelson: Moved to amend the bill. Line 6 replace the first Adjutant General with NDVA and add "or urn" behind casket.

Senator Marcellais: Seconded.

Chairman Dever: Discussion?

Senator Flakoll: On line seven. How does the "no cost to the veteran" reconcile if the cost of the caskets goes up?

Chairman Dever: I would imagine there are rules on what they allow in the veteran's cemetery. I would think not otherwise.

Senator Marcellais: In researching this some other states they do a bonus check for \$2800 to the family and they leave it up to them on how they spend it.

Chairman Dever: I know the one thing they require at the veteran's cemetery is the concrete.

Senator Nelson: That is statewide.

Senator Marcellais: They also receive \$700 for that from the feds for each plot that is maintained at the cemetery.

Chairman Dever: I think that is in reference into digging the hole.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Motion carried.

Chairman Dever: Is there a desire to further amend the bill?

Senator Flakoll: I move a Do Pass As Amended and Rerefer to Appropriations.

Senator Marcellais: Seconded.

Chairman Dever: Is there any discussion?

Senator Cook: How is this ever going to get used? Is there a veteran's casket in the state of North Dakota today?

Senator Flakoll: I believe the gentleman that testified that is a funeral home director from Underwood indicated that there were some that were available in Fargo and he was not sure about Bismarck at this point.

Committee Discussion: The committee proceeded to discuss the options of caskets that are currently available and what could be available.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent.

Motion carries.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

15.0657.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans
Affairs Committee

January 29, 2015

AD
1/29/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 1, replace "adjutant general" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "and urns"

Page 1, line 6, replace "adjutant general" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 6, after "casket" insert "or urn"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1/29
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2238**

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: line 6 Adj General replaced with NDVA
 + add "or urn" after casket

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	Ab		Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2238: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2238 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "adjutant general" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "and urns"

Page 1, line 6, replace "adjutant general" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 6, after "casket" insert "or urn"

Renumber accordingly

2015 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2238

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2238
2/9/2015
Job # 23508

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for veterans' military caskets and urns.

Minutes:

Testimony # 1

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Monday, February 09, 2015, at 2:15 am in regards to SB 2238. All committee members were present.

Senator Marcellais, District 9 introduced the bill and presented written Testimony Attached # 1 in support of the bill. He described each casket for each branch of service, which are pictured in his testimony. (4.58) I want to propose some amendments to the Bill. The OMB wanted to know how we came up with the estimate for the dollar amount. it was an estimate of \$2800 a casket with 1000 veterans dying in the next two years. These are not for all the veterans but the ones that need them. Some are being buried in the welfare caskets, what I am proposing DHS take care of is this, the county Service Officer, ask if they are veteran, had an honorable discharge. This would take the funding out of the bill and put it in the DHS budget. It is already in their budget.

Chairman Holmberg stated that amendment is not prepared yet.

V.Chairman Bowman: I just attended a military funeral, you couldn't see the casket at all because the flag was over it; I love it but if you can't see it, it defeats the purpose.

Senator Marcellais: Our church won't allow us to drape the flag over the casket. So in some cases it would be seen.

Senator Robinson: I thank you on your passion for this subject. Are there any issues with the funeral homes across the state with the access?

Senator Marcellais: We did have some testimony from our GVA meeting, he brought up that some of the veterans are cremated. We also amended the bill so that the county Service Officer would get involved. Our district does not get involved at all. He said there shouldn't be a problem.

Senator Wanzek the amendment you are talking about it's going to address the DHS budget, there's money already being spent for caskets and this would replace these caskets.

Senator Marcellais: DHS pays for the caskets, the amount instead of the social services casket.

Senator Wanzek : We can buy them a nicer casket for the same price.

Chairman Holmberg stated # 1: we should give kudos for continuing on the issue and #2 continuing to look for a variety of alternatives so that our veterans are buried properly. These are people that would qualify for DHS caskets.

Senator Carlisle: made a statement that the urns could be added.

Senator Marcellais: My heart is with our veterans. I am a Vietnam veteran and we've been through a lot.

Chairman Holmberg asked if anyone else wanted to testify. We will await further information. The hearing was closed at this time.

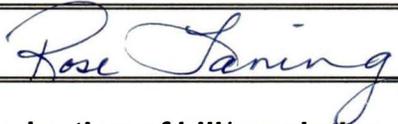
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2238
2/11/2015
Job # 23631

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for veterans' military caskets and urns.

Minutes:

Amendment 15.0657.02004

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on SB 2238.

Senator Carlisle moved amendment 15.0657.02004

Senator Mathern seconded.

Voice vote carried.

Senator Wanzek moved **Do Pass as Amended on SB 2238**

Senator O'Connell seconded.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 12 Nay: 1 Absent: 0

The committee discussed the military caskets and receiving one for discount price.

The bill goes back to the Government and Veterans Affairs committee.

February 10, 2015

TW
2/11/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact section 23-06-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 23-06-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. If the deceased is not survived by an individual described by subsection 1 and did not leave sufficient means to defray funeral expenses, including the cost of a casket, the county social service board of the county in which the deceased had residence for county general assistance purposes or, if residence cannot be established, the county social service board of the county in which the death occurs shall employ some person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. If the deceased was a resident or inmate of a public institution, the county in which the deceased was a resident for county general assistance purposes immediately before entering the institution shall employ a person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. Each board of county commissioners may negotiate with the interested funeral directors or funeral homes regarding cremation expenses and burial expenses but the total charges for burial services, including transportation of the deceased to the place of burial, the grave box or vault, grave space, and grave opening and closing expenses, may not be less than one thousand five hundred dollars. If the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, the county social services board shall provide a military casket. The county social service board shall pay the charge for funeral expenses as negotiated by the board of county commissioners, less any amount left by the deceased to defray the expenses."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-11-15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2238

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0657.02004

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Carlisle Seconded By Mathern

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Holmberg			Senator Heckaman		
Senator Bowman			Senator Mathern		
Senator Krebsbach			Senator O'Connell		
Senator Carlisle			Senator Robinson		
Senator Sorvaag					
Senator G. Lee					
Senator Kilzer					
Senator Erbele					
Senator Wanzek					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: voice vote yes

Date: 2-11-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2238**

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Wanzek Seconded By O'Connell

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Holmberg	✓		Senator Heckaman	✓	
Senator Bowman	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator O'Connell	✓	
Senator Carlisle	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator G. Lee		✓			
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen Marcellis

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2238, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2238 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact section 23-06-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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3. If the deceased is not survived by an individual described by subsection 1 and did not leave sufficient means to defray funeral expenses, including the cost of a casket, the county social service board of the county in which the deceased had residence for county general assistance purposes or, if residence cannot be established, the county social service board of the county in which the death occurs shall employ some person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. If the deceased was a resident or inmate of a public institution, the county in which the deceased was a resident for county general assistance purposes immediately before entering the institution shall employ a person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. Each board of county commissioners may negotiate with the interested funeral directors or funeral homes regarding cremation expenses and burial expenses but the total charges for burial services, including transportation of the deceased to the place of burial, the grave box or vault, grave space, and grave opening and closing expenses, may not be less than one thousand five hundred dollars. If the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, the county social services board shall provide a military casket. The county social service board shall pay the charge for funeral expenses as negotiated by the board of county commissioners, less any amount left by the deceased to defray the expenses."

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SB 2238

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2238
3/5/2015
24403

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans

Minutes:

Attachments 1-3

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on SB 2238.

Senator Richard Marcellais appeared in support of SB 2238. Attachments 1-2. (:27-3:34)

Rep. Seibel How readily available are these caskets?

Senator Marcellais An undertaker from Washburn that testified on the senate side said they could them in two days.

Rep. Seibel This would fall under the general assistance burial portion of the law which is the county social services? Would they be responsible for paying the price difference in the caskets?

Senator Marcellais We are going to save \$100 on each one of these caskets. The welfare caskets are \$2,800 at the county level. These are \$2,700. Last session I wanted to pay for all caskets for all veterans which was \$2.8 million. I took that off this time and thought if the social services has the funding available, why not use it.

Rep. Laning How many veterans would qualify under this bill?

Senator Marcellais I am not sure, but last year we lost 14 veterans in my county alone.

Rep. Laning Are those caskets available for individual veterans that don't qualify under this bill?

Senator Marcellais They are available.

Rep. B. Koppelman If a county social services board earmarks \$2,800 to be spent, and if the funeral service that was doing that burial was able to say we can do any of these three caskets for that much money, would the family then be able to have a choice under current law?

Senator Marcellais Not to my knowledge. It is up to the family and whether or not they meet the needs for the casket in order to get a social services casket.

Rep. B. Koppelman Let us say the financial qualifications are met, and the funeral director is aware that social services is providing this much money for that funeral at a pre negotiated rate. If they had two caskets, one in two different colors or something and they are the same price and is what the county is providing, wouldn't the family be able to choose that?

Senator Marcellais I would say yes.

Rep. B. Koppelman Couldn't the family choose this already?

Senator Marcellais We go through a funeral home, and this is where they would select the military casket to receive for the veteran.

Rep. B. Koppelman I am assuming most funeral homes are aware of these caskets. If they are less cost than the one they have negotiated with the county, would the family member not be able to choose that already?

Senator Marcellais I would say they could.

Vice Chair Rohr I went to see American Sniper. If he would qualify for one of these caskets, which one would he get? Was he a Navy Seal?

Senator Marcellais It would be under the Navy.

Opposition

Bonnie Staiger, North Dakota Funeral Directors Association, appeared in opposition. Attachment 3. (10:37-11:45)

Rep. Amerman Where are the present county caskets stored?

Bonnie Staiger I think Terry Traynor can answer that more specifically than I can.

Terry Traynor, Association of Counties, appeared in opposition. It should be pointed out that this is a county mandated responsibility for indigent burials. Each county is responsible independently for dealing with this mandate. They negotiate with one or multiple funeral homes in their county at a rate that the funeral home feels they can get by with. Many counties generally don't even provide for caskets. They mandate cremation unless there is a religious belief that would not all for that. I am confused and concerned about this. It appears to mandate a cost that isn't currently there on someone and

ultimately whether it is upfront or it is further down the road with new negotiated costs, I suspect the county would end picking up more of those costs, and our goal has been to reduce county social service costs rather than increase them.

Vice Chair Rohr Doesn't the county social services budget have a line item for indigent burials?

Terry Traynor Yes, but they negotiate the cost per burial with the nursing home.

Vice Chair Rohr Do they give a number? They are going to plan on 10 indigent burials, so, therefore, that is what they budget?

Terry Traynor They look at what they had for the last several years and probably budget for the assuage.

Vice Chair Rohr Would you assume they sometimes may not use that budget line item?

Terry Traynor Certainly.

Rep. Wallman You said your goal has been to reduce costs. Do you mean to say that to define deficiencies with the budget you already have or reduce services?

Terry Traynor A major initiative of this legislative session is to shift 20% of the cost of social services to the state and create a mechanism to shift 100% of the cost of social services to the state over the next two years. We feel the property tax is a poor funding source for social services, because social services are so uneven in the state. Many of our counties with very small property valuations and, therefore, a small tax base, have some of the highest social service costs. This seems to be adding cost to that property tax burden rather than taking them away.

Rep. Wallman I am aware of the bills to shift the funding stream from the local tax base to the state, but that doesn't really seem to have much to do with reducing costs.

Terry Traynor Reducing county costs, not overall costs.

Chairman Kasper Could you go through the process to expedite the funeral when a veteran dies and has no resources.

Steve Reiser, Director of Dakota Central Social Services, appeared. When there is any county burial, whether a veteran or not, we are contacted either by the family or funeral home, and then we have them fill out an application for a ga burial. Each county sets up the policies that they use to determine whether someone is eligible for the burial or not. We look at their income and their assets. Most counties look at adult surviving parents or adult surviving children as a means to pay for those funeral costs first. If an individual is deemed eligible for a county burial, then we give notice to the funeral home and the burial is done. The price that is paid to the funeral home is negotiated by the county commissioners and funeral homes. Social services doesn't have anything to do with the price. We just have to

determine about how many numbers we think we are going to have a year and the number that our county has negotiated and put that in as the line item in our budget.

Chairman Kasper If you budgeted for 10 funerals and have 5, do you carry over a fund balance so you begin to accumulate dollars in the fund balance?

Steve Reiser I would guess that is dependent on each county. For example, I probably budget somewhere around 10 or 11 and if we only do 2, that money went back into the county general fund. Then I would ask for those dollars again the next budgeting year.

Chairman Kasper The military casket is now actually a little cheaper than a welfare casket. Is that what you are seeing in your experience?

Steve Reiser In my experience we have never done a veteran's funeral.

Rep. Seibel How many counties do you deal with your social services?

Steve Reiser We have four counties--Mercer, McClean, Oliver, and Sheridan. We have four separate prices.

Rep. Seibel What are those prices?

Steve Reiser Mercer County is about \$2,500. McClean, Oliver, and Sheridan are \$2,200 for a funeral.

Rep. B. Koppelman What is the casket portion of that?

Steve Reiser Most of our ga burials are cremations, so we don't do very many costs for caskets.

Rep. B. Koppelman Based on what you said, it would likely be a much higher cost than what is typically paid by your county?

Steve Reiser I am guessing that is true. Our agency pays the funeral home \$2,200 and whatever burial is completed, they either broke even or make up something up.

Rep. Seibel The negotiated rate includes services of the funeral home and staff, embalming, casket, burial vault if required by the cemetery, and paying the gravedigger. The casket cost of that \$2,200 is very small. Is that correct?

Steve Reiser Correct. When we get a bill from the funeral home, it is itemized as you have said, and it adds up to the amount that has been negotiated.

Rep. Mooney Would it be cumbersome and overly burdensome for the county social services to be a part either through the county veteran service office or to work in tandem to be able to recognize when there is an indigent veteran within a county area?

Steve Reiser I think it would be just another question we would put on our application. Are you a veteran and are you requesting a veteran's funeral? I think it would be more cumbersome on the funeral home.

Rep. Mooney The functionality piece of it is going to come back to the cost factor and the funeral home piece of it. Correct?

Steve Reiser Yes.

Vice Chair Rohr In a former position I had I helped an indigent family with a death of a loved one. I went to the funeral home with them and they determined that it was a social services burial, so we went to a room where there were caskets. Then there was a room that had the casket for an indigent person which looks like an icebox. In your next budget negotiation, you would have those caskets plus these caskets, and you would have to determine what your budget is based on the number of indigent burials you are going to have for that next year. Does that make sense? Is that doable?

Steve Reiser I think you are correct. I wouldn't know in my district and I don't know how the funeral directors would know is how many veterans we actually have living in our counties that might become eligible for these types of burials. I would agree with you that if the bill passes in its current form, there is going to be a lot of renegotiating that will need to be done.

Chairman Kasper If the county has to do the funeral anyway right now, isn't the only difference we are stipulating is that we have to use a military casket or urn?

Steve Reiser When I first read the bill, it looked to me that it is an extra expense to the county. As we talk about it now, it appears it is going to be part of the negotiated price.

Chairman Kasper I am confused. The county is already paying?

Steve Reiser The price is negotiated by the county commissioners and the county is paying. The price of this casket is part of that negotiated price, and then, yes, we are paying it now.

Chairman Kasper Will the price go up if we use a military casket or will it stay the same? What is really the difference in the cost of the casket? That sort of seems to be what the nub of the situation is.

Steve Reiser I would agree.

Chairman Kasper How do we find out what an average cost of a current casket compared to a military casket is?

Rep. Seibel The wholesale cost between the county casket which is what is currently negotiated in all of the county burials and upgrading to this military casket is \$1,028 additional.

Rep. Mooney Rep. Seibel, most funeral homes have 1-3 choices?

Rep. Seibel Not really. For county burials, it is negotiated. Funeral homes lose on a county burial depending on where you are and what you have negotiated upwards to \$4,000 on a county burial. When they negotiate, they negotiate with a minimum casket.

Rep. B. Koppelman Could a county accept, when they negotiate, two rates? Here is a county burial, and here is a county burial plus \$1,000 that represents the veteran burial. Is that allowed in bidding to county government or not if this bill passed?

Steve Reiser I believe that it would be allowed because there are some counties now that negotiate two different rates for county burials. One rate is a casket burial, and one is a cremation.

No neutral.

The hearing was closed.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2238
3/6/2015
24434

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans

Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

Chairman Kasper opened the meeting on SB 2238. He formed a subcommittee consisting of Rep. Seibel, Rep. Mooney, and Vice Chair Rohr. Rep. Seibel will chair the subcommittee. They have indicated they want to do some work on it and come back with some great ideas for us to consider.

Minutes of the

(HOUSE) (SENATE) BILL NO. 2238 SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

GVA STANDING COMMITTEE

Meeting location: House Conference Room

Date of meeting: 3/10/2015

Time meeting called to order: 8⁰⁰ AM

Members present: Rep Jay Seibel, Rep Gail Mooney
Rep Karen Rohr

Others present (may attach attendance sheet):

Topics discussed:

- options of caskets and military emblems for indigent burials
- involving stakeholders in communicating burial options for indigent veterans
- meeting with stakeholders Lonie Wanger, Veterans Assn., Terry Trayner, County and Bonnie Stager, funeral home representative

Motion and vote: - next mtg 3/12/15 @ 8 AM

Time of adjournment: 8:30 AM

Note: If a motion is made, a description of the motion must be provided along with the member seconding the motion. A recorded roll call vote must be taken and reported for any nonprocedural motion.

Minutes of the

(HOUSE) (SENATE) BILL NO. 2238 SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
GVA STANDING COMMITTEE

Meeting location: House C.R.

Date of meeting: 3/12/15

Time meeting called to order: 8:00 AM

Members present: Rep Jay Siebel, Rep Gail Mooney
Rep. Karen Rohr

Others present (may attach attendance sheet):

Kim Jacobson (TRAIL CO) Terry Trayner Stacy
Krumwiede (ND Funeral Directors), Lonnie Wanger, ND
Veterans Affairs

Topics discussed:

- County and veterans Funding of Burials (Indigent veterans) cost - casket, urn, Flag, emblem
- Communication model - Social services, County and State VSO
- Funeral Homes the focal point; County would charge fees
- o Battered caskets with panel or magnet marking military branch
Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Dickinson sites

Motion and vote:

Time of adjournment: 8:35 AM

Note: If a motion is made, a description of the motion must be provided along with the member seconding the motion. A recorded roll call vote must be taken and reported for any nonprocedural motion.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2238
3/20/2015
25218

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans

Minutes:

Attachment 1

Chairman Kasper opened the meeting on SB 2238.

Rep. Seibel handed out Attachment 1 which is an amendment. He gave a report as chair of a subcommittee. We met with Lonnie Wangen, Bonnie Staiger, funeral directors' representative, and Terry Traynor with the counties. I did some research and was able to find some caskets through the funeral directors that will not cost anybody any more money than what is considered the county burial casket today. He passed around a handout that shows some pictures of magnets that are available for each branch of service that could go on to these metal caskets, or there are head caps that go into the open part of the casket that are available for each branch of service. Also, these military urns are made right here in Bismarck, ND. The caskets are warehoused in four different locations around North Dakota. The logistics problem is taken care of that I was concerned about. In the amendment you will see that there can be no additional cost over the negotiated expenses in this section which is the indigent burial section. We added urns and also added language that if there is a surviving spouse or nearest of kin which is in other sections of the law, they can decline the use of a military casket. I was concerned that some folks, the way it was written, would have to provide a military casket. I make a motion to adopt the amendment.

Rep. B. Koppelman seconded the motion.

Rep. Laning Are the military caskets similar to the pictures we saw earlier?

Rep. Seibel There are pictures coming. They would be a metal casket. The caskets that we saw pictures of during testimony would actually cost more than the counties are now getting for the entire funeral, so that is not an option in an indigent burial.

Rep. Wallman Those are warehoused four different spots in the state, and they actually would not cost more than the cloth covered county casket that is now being used.

Rep. Laning Your idea is to utilize one of these metal caskets and put some of the magnetic deals on there as far as the military recognition?

Rep. Seibel That is correct. That is the only way we could make it work without an additional expense to either the counties or the funeral homes.

Rep. Schneider Is this the urn?

Rep. Seibel It looks like a headstone, but it actually is an urn.

Rep. Schneider What are the dimensions of the emblem?

Rep. Seibel The emblem is about 3-4" across, and it is magnetic so it could stick to the outside of the casket. The other panels would be in the open part of the casket what we call the head cap. For the cost, I think both could work actually if the family so chooses or if there is family. A lot of time with indigents, there is no family.

Rep. Amerman For us veterans that will pay for our own funeral, is there an address where we could still purchase one of those emblems to put on the casket?

Rep. Seibel You could get that through your funeral home.

Rep. Mooney I am really excited by this. We brought in the association of funeral homes, association of counties, a representative from the association of social services directors, and Lonnie Wangen with the veterans' affairs commission. The funeral home is always a common denominator in our state. It just made sense that a lot of what we are talking about is education between the three, and what we are doing is providing the ability. One of the things that the social services director came away with is that they might be able to talk about this for all our pauper burials.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carries.

Rep. Laning made a motion for a DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Rep. Mooney seconded the motion.

Rep. Wallman Was the subcommittee able to reach out to Senator Marcellais and ask his opinion on this?

Rep. Mooney Yes, I did. Senator Marcellais would like to see more. He would like to see the original casket that he had offered. I think in the world of wishes he would like to see every veteran get a casket. While Senator Marcellais wasn't exactly thrilled that we didn't provide exactly what he had asked for, I feel very comfortable that this is what we can do. It is something that we can be proud of that we can offer, especially right now, to our indigent veterans.

A roll call vote was taken. 14 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. **Rep. Seibel** will carry the bill.

HS
3-20-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "or urns"

Page 1, line 19, remove "If the deceased was a veteran as defined"

Page 1, line 20, replace "in section 37-01-40, the" with "The"

Page 1, line 20, replace "shall" with "may"

Page 1, line 20, after "provide" insert "for the use of"

Page 1, line 20, after "casket" insert "or urn, if the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, unless the additional cost exceeds the negotiated expenses of this section or a surviving spouse or the nearest of kin of the deceased elects a nonmilitary casket"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-20-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2238**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0657.03003

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Seibel Seconded By Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Vice Chair Karen Rohr			Rep. Gail Mooney		
Rep. Jason Dockter			Rep. Mary Schneider		
Rep. Mary C. Johnson			Rep. Kris Wallman		
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Vernon Laning					
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Jay Seibel					
Rep. Vicky Steiner					

*voice
 vote
 motion
 carries*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3-20-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2238**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Lanning Seconded By Mooney

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chair Karen Rohr	X		Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Mary Schneider	X	
Rep. Mary C. Johnson	X		Rep. Kris Wallman	X	
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Lanning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Jay Seibel	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Seibel

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2238, as reengrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed SB 2238 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "or urns"

Page 1, line 19, remove "If the deceased was a veteran as defined"

Page 1, line 20, replace "in section 37-01-40, the" with "The"

Page 1, line 20, replace "shall" with "may"

Page 1, line 20, after "provide" insert "for the use of"

Page 1, line 20, after "casket" insert "or urn, if the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, unless the additional cost exceeds the negotiated expenses of this section or a surviving spouse or the nearest of kin of the deceased elects a nonmilitary casket"

Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

SB 2238



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



#1
Pg 1

Senator Richard Marcellais
District 9
RR 1, Box 267A
Belcourt, ND 58316-9787
rmarcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

Senate Bill 2238 – to provide an appropriation to purchase veteran military caskets

Senate Government Veterans Affairs Committee

Senator Dever, Chairman

January 29, 2015

Chairman Dever, members of the Senate Government Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.

Senate Bill 2238 would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.

Attached are caskets identified for each branch of service and the Koren War Art Casket:

Air Force Art Casket – Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good United States of America. The casket has Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and U.S. Flag all portray the dignity of our U.S. Air Force.

U. S. Army Art Casket – This selection allows us to Honor the time and sacrifice for our loved one gave to the United States of America. A battle tank, helicopter, U. S. Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have “won the war”.

Marine Corp Art Casket – This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabers crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the “raising of the flag”, and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

U. S. Navy Art Casket – Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a U. S. Flag along with a “Blue Angels” style fly over make this an unbelievable “Last Tribute” selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

U. S. Coast Guard Art Casket – As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard’s role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

Korean War Art Casket – With images similar to the “Lost Patrol” images portrayed in Washington, DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

In honor of all those who have served & especially to those veterans who have protect our countries freedoms, may they rest in peace. Caskets are for the dead and funerals are for the living.

I believe that our North Dakota veterans are entitled to this after serving the United States of America and this great state of North Dakota.

*Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of **Senate Bill 2238**. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.*

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Army

US Army Art Casket

Product Code: WUSA
 Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~
 Our Price: \$2797.97

Description: Proudly Made in America by Americans! Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No charge Funeral and Cemetery consulting available upon request.

This selection allows you to Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good of USA!

A battle tank, helicopter, US Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have "won the war".

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

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Marines

Marine Corp Art Casket

Product Code: WMC
 Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~
 Our Price: \$2797.97

Description: Proudly Made in the USA! Keep Americans working!

Semper Fidelis - This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabres crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the "raising of the flag", and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

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Navy

US Navy Art Casket

Product Code: WUSN
 Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~
 Our Price: \$2797.97

Description: Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly MADE IN AMERICA! Keep Americans working!

Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a US Flag along with a "Blue Angels" style fly over make this an unbelievable "Last Tribute" selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

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US Coast Guard Art Casket

Product Code: WCG
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Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good ol USA!

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18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

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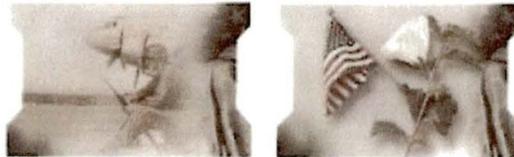
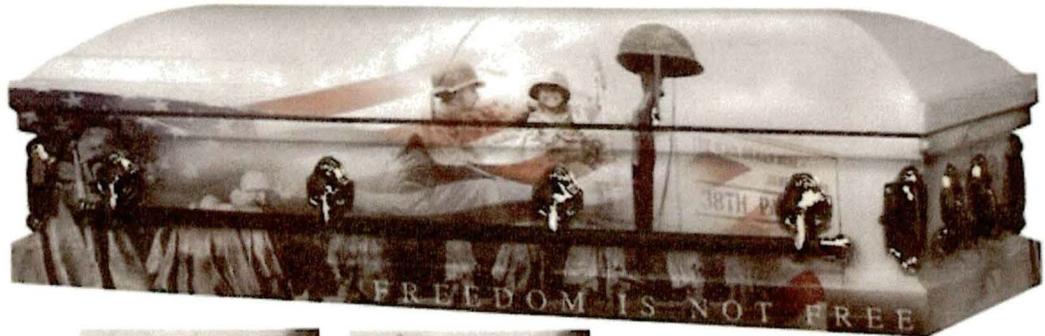
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**Korean War Art Casket

Product Code: WTKO

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

Description: Please call 1st before ordering this model. Thank you

With images similar to the "Lost Patrol" images portrayed in Washington DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

Full 18 gauge steel with white crepe interior. Casket provided with hidden end lock device. Quality construction - **Made in the USA** - throughout the inside and outside!

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AMERICAN LEGION LILLEY-DIONNE
POST 262 BELCOURT
PO Box 368
Belcourt, ND. 58316

January 24, 2015

State of North Dakota
64th State Legislative Assembly
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND.

Dear Legislators:

RE: Senate Bill ²²³⁸~~2264~~

We are writing in support of Senate Bill ²²³⁸~~2264~~ for military caskets. Our country has had a proud heritage of our soldiers who have served our country to protect our freedom. When soldiers come back many are changed for a lifetime with physical and emotional scars.

Lilley Dionne Post 262 lost 19 veterans in 2014. Many of the veterans were buried with "welfare caskets" which is disheartening after they have given so much. Our state and our country needs to do better. Please look favorably on this bill for our veterans. This will provide of sense of dignity to the veteran and their families. Please acknowledge their importance by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Howard Longie, Commander
Belcourt American Legion

29 Jan 2015
Senate Government Affairs Committee
Testimony in support of SB 2238

Chairman Dever and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Bonnie Staiger (#158) representing the North Dakota Funeral Directors Association who support this bill in principle. The organization has some concerns which hopefully can be clarified in amendments. For example:

1. In fairness to veterans wishing to be cremated urns should be included in the bill as an option for families.
2. Will the appropriation provide caskets or urns to be purchased by the families or will specific caskets or urns be provided by the military? If it's a military-issued casket or urn where will those be stored and how will they be supplied. Will funeral staff need to drive to a particular site/s to pick up the caskets or urns and will the appropriation cover the transportation costs?

Currently, under federal guidelines for a veteran who dies in a VA facility; nursing home or hospital transportation costs are paid and a veteran who is receiving a pension or disability receives burial benefits ranging from \$600 and up (generally \$1500).

3. How will the benefit per veteran be determined and who will decide that amount? This association prefers the funds be dispersed to families through a burial benefit or voucher system with a specific dollar amount to families that could be directly applied toward a casket or urn of their choosing.
4. Will this benefit have an impact on the current set-aside for Medicaid recipients? For example if they redeem a voucher for \$1000 will the Dept. of Human Services deduct that from the set-aside for those veterans under Medicaid or will it be a separate benefit?

The ND Funeral Directors Association is available as a resource to assist your committee's work to resolve these details. We look forward to this bill's passage and the benefit it provides for our veterans.



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



#1

Senator Richard Marcellais
District 9
RR 1, Box 267A
Belcourt, ND 58316-9787
rmarcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

Senate Bill 2238 – to provide an appropriation to purchase veteran military caskets

***Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Holmberg, Chairman
February 9, 2015***

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.

Senate Bill 2238 would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.

Attached are caskets identified for each branch of service and the Koren War Art Casket:

Air Force Art Casket – Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good United States of America. The casket has Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and U.S. Flag all portray the dignity of our U.S. Air Force.

U. S. Army Art Casket – This selection allows us to Honor the time and sacrifice for our loved one gave to the United States of America. A battle tank, helicopter, U. S. Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have “won the war”.

Marine Corp Art Casket – This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabers crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the “raising of the flag”, and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

U. S. Navy Art Casket – Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a U. S. Flag along with a “Blue Angels” style fly over make this an unbelievable “Last Tribute” selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

U. S. Coast Guard Art Casket – As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard’s role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

Korean War Art Casket – With images similar to the “Lost Patrol” images portrayed in Washington, DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

In honor of all those who have served & especially to those veterans who have protect our countries freedoms, may they rest in peace. Caskets are for the dead and funerals are for the living.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Bill 2238. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.

Toll Free Number
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Air Force

Air Force Art Casket

Description :

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

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18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock.
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Our Price: \$2797.97

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Toll Free Number
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Army

US Army Art Casket

Description :

Proudly Made in America by Americans! Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No charge Funeral and Cemetery consulting available upon request.

This selection allows you to Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good of USA!

A battle tank, helicopter, US Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have "won the war".

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Typical Price: \$5995.00

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Please read our terms and conditions before order:

CONDITIONS of TERMS of PURCHASE

The `Purchaser', by completing the online Order Form for funeral merchandise, hereby agrees to purchase the following merchandise described herein, subject to acceptance and approval by hereinafter referred to as `Seller'. All sales are final. Credit and/or exchange allowed only upon approval from Seller. Placement of the order indicates the Purchaser's acceptance of all of the Terms and Conditions listed herein. Receipt of an email

1. H

Toll Free Number
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



Marines

Marine Corp Art Casket

Description :

Proudly Made in the USA! Keep Americans working!

Semper Fidelis - This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabres crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the "raising of the flag", and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No cost Funeral and Cemetery consulting available to help your family.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Please read our terms and conditions before order:

<p>CONDITIONS of TERMS of PURCHASE</p> <p>The `Purchaser`, by completing the online Order Form for funeral merchandise, hereby agrees to purchase the following merchandise described herein, subject to acceptance and approval by hereinafter referred to as `Seller`. All sales are final. Credit and/or exchange allowed only upon approval from Seller. Placement of the order indicates the Purchaser's acceptance of all of the Terms and Conditions listed herein. Receipt of an email</p>	<p>^</p> <p>▼</p>
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1.5

Toll Free Number
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



Navy

US Navy Art Casket

Description :

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly **MADE IN AMERICA!** Keep Americans working!

Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a US Flag along with a "Blue Angels" style fly over make this an unbelievable "Last Tribute" selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: **\$2797.97**

[Back](#)

Please read our terms and conditions before order:

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1.6

Toll Free Number
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



US Coast Guard Art Casket

Description :

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly Made in America. Keep Americans working!

Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good of USA!

As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard's role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

Standard delivery (2-4 days depending on location) included for Free! Overnight or special delivery available with additional charges.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Please read our terms and conditions before order:

1.7

Toll Free Number
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



**Korean War Art Casket

Description :

Please call 1st before ordering this model. Thank you

With images similar to the \"Lost Patrol\" images portrayed in Washington DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

Full 18 gauge steel with white crepe interior. Casket provided with hidden end lock device. Quality construction - **Made in the USA** - throughout the inside and outside!

Standard delivery(2-4 days depending on location)is included for Free! Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge. Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

[Back](#)

Please read our terms and conditions before order:

CONDITIONS of TERMS of PURCHASE

The 'Purchaser', by completing the online Order Form for funeral merchandise, hereby agrees to purchase the following merchandise described herein, subject to acceptance and approval by hereinafter referred to as 'Seller'. All sales are final. Credit and/or exchange allowed only upon approval from Seller. Placement of the order indicates the Purchaser's acceptance of all of the Terms and Conditions listed herein. Receipt of an email

1.8

February 10, 2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact section 23-06-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to providing military caskets for eligible deceased veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 23-06-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. If the deceased is not survived by an individual described by subsection 1 and did not leave sufficient means to defray funeral expenses, including the cost of a casket, the county social service board of the county in which the deceased had residence for county general assistance purposes or, if residence cannot be established, the county social service board of the county in which the death occurs shall employ some person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. If the deceased was a resident or inmate of a public institution, the county in which the deceased was a resident for county general assistance purposes immediately before entering the institution shall employ a person to arrange for and supervise the burial or cremation. Each board of county commissioners may negotiate with the interested funeral directors or funeral homes regarding cremation expenses and burial expenses but the total charges for burial services, including transportation of the deceased to the place of burial, the grave box or vault, grave space, and grave opening and closing expenses, may not be less than one thousand five hundred dollars. If the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, the county social services board shall provide a military casket. The county social service board shall pay the charge for funeral expenses as negotiated by the board of county commissioners, less any amount left by the deceased to defray the expenses."

Renumber accordingly



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

#1 2238 3-5-15



Senator Richard Marcellais
District 9
RR 1, Box 267A
Belcourt, ND 58316-9787
rmarcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

Senate Bill 2238 – to provide an appropriation to purchase veteran military caskets

*House Government Veterans Affairs Committee
Representative Kasper, Chairman*

Chairman Kasper, members of the House Government Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.

Senate Bill 2238 would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.

Attached are caskets identified for each branch of service and the Koren War Art Casket:

Air Force Art Casket – Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good United States of America. The casket has Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and U.S. Flag all portray the dignity of our U.S. Air Force.

U. S. Army Art Casket – This selection allows us to Honor the time and sacrifice for our loved one gave to the United States of America. A battle tank, helicopter, U. S. Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have **“won the war”**.

Marine Corp Art Casket – This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabers crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the **“raising of the flag”**, and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

U. S. Navy Art Casket – Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a U. S. Flag along with a **“Blue Angels”** style fly over make this an unbelievable **“Last Tribute”** selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

U. S. Coast Guard Art Casket – As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard’s role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

Korean War Art Casket – With images similar to the “Lost Patrol” images portrayed in Washington, DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

In honor of all those who have served & especially to those veterans who have protect our countries freedoms, may they rest in peace. Caskets are for the dead and funerals are for the living.

*I want to propose an amendment to **Senate Bill 2238** to include Urns*

*Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of **Senate Bill 2238**. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.*

Air Force Military Caskets



Tribute - The Air Force

This Air Force caskets has fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and US Flag all portray the dignity of our US Air Force.

White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware, swing bar handles, end lock, gasketed.

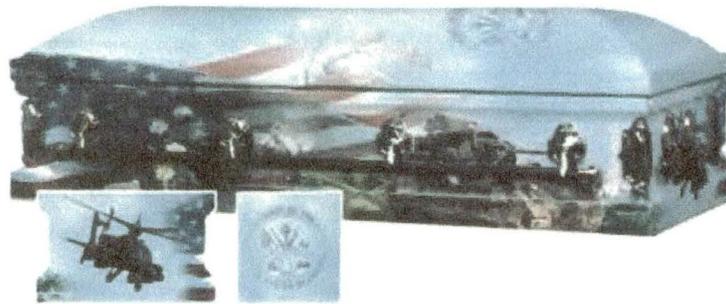
\$2,695.00

Military Casket Terms

[To Order Now Download our Form or Call Us](#)

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Army Military Caskets



Tribute - The US Army Insignia Casket

A battle tank, helicopter, US Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have "won the war".

White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware, swing bar handles, end lock, gasketed.

\$2,695.00

[Military Casket Terms](#)

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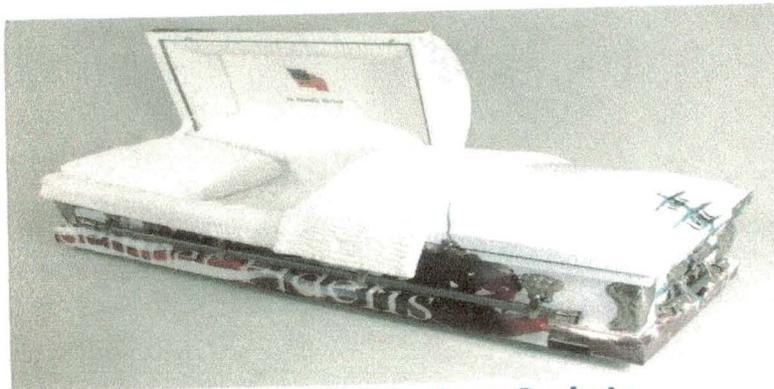
Casket	Caskets
Burial Caskets	Funeral Caskets
Casket Displays	Glass Caskets
Funeral Caskets	Vault Caskets

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Marines Military Casket



Tribute - The Marines Caskets

If you served in the Marine Corps then this casket says it all for you. This marine casket is for those who have served in the Marine Corps is all about with sabres crossed, Marine Corps emblem, the "raising of the flag", and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware, swing bar handles, end lock, gasketed.

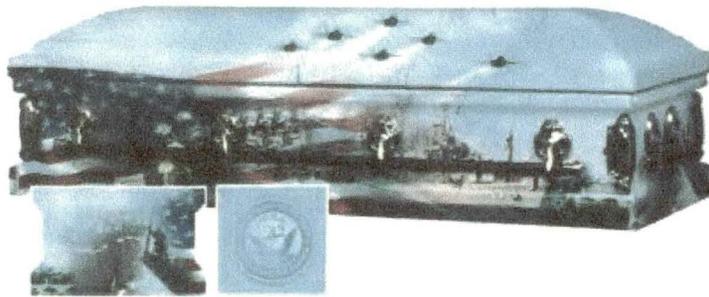
\$2,695.00

Military Casket Terms

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Navy Military Caskets



Tribute - The Navy Caskets

For those who loved the sea and were sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a US Flag along with a "Blue Angels" style fly over make this an unbelievable "Last Tribute" selection.

White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware, swing bar handles, end lock, gasketed.

\$2,695.00

[Military Casket Terms](#)

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Home	Military Caskets
Navy Caskets	Navy Flags
Navy Shirts	Navy Buttons
Navy Hats	Navy Medal Caskets

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Coast Guard Military Caskets



Tribute - The Coast Guard Casket

The ultimate in military tribute, this Coast Guard design features the old ships, Coast Guard emblem, US Flag, and helicopter displays.

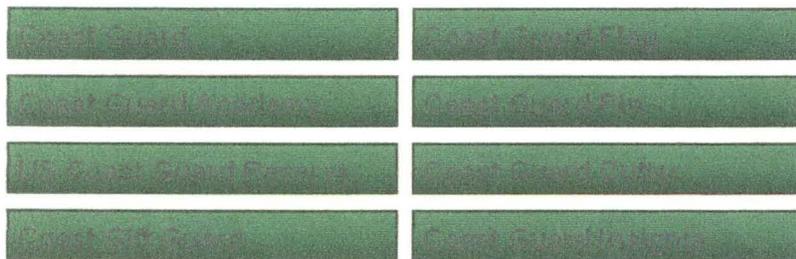
White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware, swing bar handles, end lock, gasketed.

\$2,695.00

[Military Casket Terms](#)

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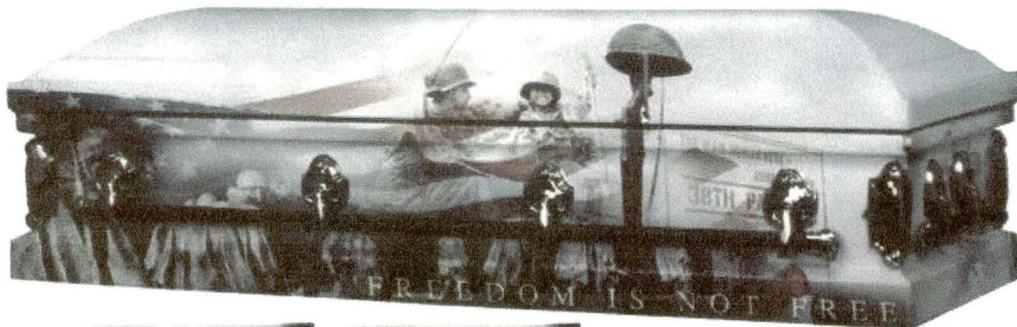


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Korean Military Caskets



Tribute - Korean Veterans Caskets

\$2,695.00

Military Casket Terms

With images similar to the "ghost" images portrayed in Washington DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

Full 18 gauge steel with white crepe interior. Casket provided with hidden end lock device.

[To Order Now Download our Form or Call Us](#)

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15.0657.03001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Marcellais

February 16, 2015

2 2238
3-5-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "or urns"

Page 1, line 20, after "casket" insert "or urn"

Renumber accordingly

#3 2238
3-5-15

05 Mar 2015
House Government Affairs Committee
Testimony in opposition of SB 2238

Chairman Kasper and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Bonnie Staiger (#158) representing the North Dakota Funeral Directors Association who oppose this bill. The organization had supported it in the Senate –with reservations and hoped the issues could be resolved. Unfortunately they were not and our position had to change.

Current reimbursement to funeral homes for county social service burials barely covers the actual expenses involved and in some counties results in a loss. Adding to that cost, the engrossed bill will not adequately cover the actual cost of a military casket which is more expensive than a “county casket.”

Also not addressed is where the military caskets will be stored and how will they be supplied. It is unrealistic to expect funeral homes to inventory these specialized caskets. If funeral home staff need to drive to a particular site/s to pick up the caskets, those additional transportation costs are not covered in the engrossed bill.

As presented, the ND Funeral Directors Association asks for a Do Not Pass recommendation.

15.0657.03003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Seibel
March 19, 2015

#1 2238
3-20-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2238

Page 1, line 2, after "caskets" insert "or urns"

Page 1, line 19, remove "If the deceased was a veteran as defined"

Page 1, line 20, replace "in section 37-01-40, the" with "The"

Page 1, line 20, replace "shall" with "may"

Page 1, line 20, after "provide" insert "the use of"

Page 1, line 20, after "casket" insert "or urn if the deceased was a veteran as defined in section 37-01-40, unless the additional cost exceeds the negotiated expenses of this section or a surviving spouse or the nearest of kin of the deceased elects a nonmilitary casket"

Renumber accordingly