

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Dever, Marcellais

Representatives Owens, Pyle, Westlind

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 37-14-01.1 and 37-14-18 and subsection 8 of
2 section 37-19.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the accreditation of county
3 veterans' service officers and the definition of a veteran for purposes of veterans' relief and
4 rehabilitation and veterans' preference.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **37-14-01.1. Definition of veteran.**

9 As used in this chapter, "veteran" means an individual who served in the armed forces of
10 the United States on federal active duty ~~for~~:

- 11 1. For reasons other than training and who has been discharged under other than
12 dishonorable conditions; or
- 13 2. To whom the United States veterans administration has assigned a service-connected
14 disability rating.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **37-14-18. ~~County veterans'~~Veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.**

18 The board of county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota shall
19 appoint, employ, and pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a ~~county~~
20 veterans' service officer. The veterans' affairs commissioner may work directly with ~~county~~
21 veterans' service officers. An individual may serve as a ~~county~~ veterans' service officer in more
22 than one county. The appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of
23 veterans' affairs, and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section
24 37-19.1-02. ~~By August 1, 2011, all county~~All veterans' service officers and employees of

1 veterans' service offices must be accredited by the national association of county veterans'
2 service officers or the department of veterans' affairs within six months of appointment or
3 employment. It is the duty of the ~~county~~ veterans' service officer to become acquainted with the
4 laws, both state and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning servicemen and servicewomen
5 to assist ~~such~~the returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and
6 establishment of ~~such~~the claims, privileges, and rights as ~~they~~members have. ~~It also is the duty~~
7 ~~of the county~~The veterans' service officer ~~to actively~~shall cooperate with and ~~to~~ coordinate the
8 activities of the state and federal agencies within the county ~~which~~ the officer serves to facilitate
9 their operation and ensure promptness in the solution of the problems concerned with the re-
10 establishment of returning servicemen and servicewomen in civilian pursuits. A ~~county~~ veterans'
11 service officer may not serve as a conservator for an individual ~~who~~ is receiving benefits or
12 services from the department of veterans' affairs or the United States department of veterans'
13 affairs, except if the individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the officer.

14 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 8 of section 37-19.1-01 of the North Dakota
15 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16 8. "Veteran" means a ~~North Dakota resident~~an individual who is a wartime;
17 a. Is a veteran as defined in subsection 21 of section 37-01-40; or
18 b. Has been honorably discharged from the national guard or a reserve unit located
19 within North Dakota and:
20 (1) Has completed a minimum of twenty years of service; or
21 (2) Served in a combat zone.