

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2314

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' 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 county veterans' service officers must be

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