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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2115

2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2115

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2115

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1/11/07

Recorder Job Number: 954, 958

Committee Clerk Signature

*Veronica Spurling*

Minutes:

Roll was taken and all members were present.

David Sprynczynatyk introduced SB 2115. See attachment #1.

Sen Nelson asked whether this referred to full time guard members only or included part time members also.

Major General Sprynczynatyk replied this referred to any member of the National Guard that could be available for state active duty. Most often they are not full time with the National Guard. There are 3 categories of people that work full time for the National Guard. Active Guard Reserve status members are paid by the federal government. Military technicians are federal employees that are also traditional members of the Guard and are on a separate status on weekends. The others are employees in the private sector and are traditional guard members as we think of them. This bill refers to bringing someone on that is not full time active duty with the guard.

Senator Nelson asked whether the Guard can "loan out" guardsmen to accomplish a task based strictly on their availability and Major General Sprynczynatyk replied that the Guard does not have that right because the guardsmen are being paid by federal money and there are restrictions on what they can and cannot do.

Senator Dever asked whether the Guard, when doing a job for a public entity, is mindful not to take business away from private enterprise.

Major General Sprynczynatyk replied that guardsmen can be utilized if the project is applicable to their training. But the Guard does get approval from the Association of General Contractors to make sure they are not in competition with the local contractors. Often the political subdivision has only the money for the supplies and not for the labor to pay a contractor, so the guard is asked to do the project.

Sen Horne commented he has seen projects that the guard has done that have been very appreciated.

Major General Sprynczynatyk covered Section 2. See attachment #1. He also mentioned that the tuition grant program has been a good retention and recruiting tool for the National Guard.

Sen. Nelson asked whether the travel colleges are on the list.

Major General Sprynczynatyk replied that they are on the list.

Sen Nelson asked why the amount of payment is based on the cost of credits at UND.

Major General Sprynczynatyk asked Dave Thiele to respond to that question.

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Thiele said there had to be some benchmark set.

Senator Dever asked whether BSC was included in the program under the present law and Dave responded that it was not.

Senator Horne asked for an explanation of the process.

Major General Sprynczynatyk explained the student (Guardman) applies to the Guard for the tuition program and the Guard contacts the school and arranges for payment of 75% of the tuition.

Senator Marcellais questioned whether the word guardsman should be changed to guardspeople.

Major General Sprynczynatyk explained that guardsman always refers to male and female. He went on to explain Sections 3, 4, and 5. He mentioned that the Veteran's Bonus Program that was approved by the 2005 legislature went back to 2001. The payments for months of service in the US varies from \$50 to \$900 per month. Deployed benefits range from \$100 to \$1800 per month.

He also mentioned that our retention rate is 85% which is very good.

Sen. Horne asked why a MN or SD resident would become a member of the ND National Guard.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that many had been a ND resident and then took a job or went to school in MN. If they joined the guard before or during college they end up in a different state but retain their membership in the ND National Guard. In addition to this sometimes people want to join a unit that requires their area of interest or expertise.

Sen. Nelson asked whether reassignment to a different unit caused people to drop out.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that he didn't think so. He doesn't feel we have had an exodus by any means. Many will require retraining.

Sen. Nelson asked what the average retirement rate per year is. Major General responded that he would have to look that up.

Sen. Nelson asked if there was a mandatory age for retirement.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that by federal law most members of the guard must retire by age 60. There are some exceptions to this.

Sen Lee mentioned she felt it is good to include the technical schools in the tuition program because there is such a need for people to be trained in the technical fields. She asked whether residents of other states have difficulty collecting bonuses in their state of residence.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that he doesn't know because he is not responsible for the residents of the other states.

Sen. Marcellais asked how the Guard is getting the word about the tuition program out to the veterans in the rural areas.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that the Guard does a redeployment process with the returning members of the Guard during which they are informed of the various state and federal programs that are available to them. The active duty soldiers should be apprised of these programs through the Veterans Administration. Of the 2300 applications processed by the Guard, 270 were from active duty members, 150 were in the reserves, 1850 were from the ND National Guard.

Sen. Marcellais mentioned that he had put ads in the local paper.

Major General Sprynczynatyk thanked him for doing so.

Sen. Nelson asked whether this will go back to 1992 and through 2009 and whether the Guard will look for the out of state people going back that far.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that the Guard will do so and is aware that there are about 200 people in that category.

Sen. Dever asked whether ND residents that belong to guard units from other states would be eligible for the ND bonuses.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that they would be eligible.

Sen. Dever asked what the purpose of the emergency clause was.

Major General Sprynczynatyk responded that this would take effect as soon as the bill is passed. We are sending out soldiers often so it would be good to be able to offer this to the new soldiers.

Sen. Dever asked if this would go back to 1992 so there would be no need for a retroactive application.

Major General Sprynczynatyk affirmed that statement.

Sen Horne asked why there was an end date of June 30, 2007 mentioned in the bill.

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Thiele responded that it actually goes to June 30, 2009. It has been changed on the actual copy of the bill. Sen. Horne had an old copy of the bill.

John Jacobsen spoke in favor of the bill. See attachment #2

Further Support: -

Opposition: -

Neutral: -

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on SB 2115.

Chairman Dever opened discussion on SB 2115.

Sen. Nelson made a do pass motion.

Sen. Horne seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: Sen. Judy Lee

# FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council  
12/28/2006

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2115

**1A. State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$5,000,000					
<b>Appropriations</b>	\$5,000,000					

**1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

**2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill have no fiscal impact. Section 3, 4, and 5 of the bill add non-resident National Guard members to adjusted compensation legislation (SB 2146, 2005 Legislative Assembly) and extends the program through 2009.

**B. Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Will add approx. \$400,000 in benefits paid out (# of soldiers and airman eligible or potentially eligible (just short of 300) @ average payout of \$1,350). There will be no additional funding required as the remaining funds of the original appropriation of \$5.0 million (currently \$3.0 million) will be carried over for use though 2009 (SB 2016, section 6). No additional funds beyond the original \$5.0 million are required with the addition or extension.

**3. State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

**A. Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

**B. Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

**C. Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Funding is provided by extension of original appropriation (\$5.0 million). We believe that as of July 1, 2007 there will be approx. \$2.5 million remaining which will be sufficient to cover non-resident National Guard members and the extension of program through 2009. Below is section 6 of SB 2016:

SB 2016-- SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - TRANSFER. Any unexpended general fund appropriation authority relating to



the \$5,000,000 appropriated in section 3 of this Act for the payment of adjusted compensation to veterans is not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11. Any unexpended funds from this appropriation must be transferred to the veterans' cemetery trust fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007 2009, and ending June 30, 2009 2011.

<b>Name:</b>	LTC Dave Thiele	<b>Agency:</b>	Adjutant General
<b>Phone Number:</b>	333-2009	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/02/2007

Date : 1-11-07  
Roll Call Vote # : 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2115

Senate Government and Veteran Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Horne

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman	✓		Senator Robert Horne	✓	
Senator Dave Oehlke - VC	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment All

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 11, 2007 1:37 p.m.

Module No: SR-07-0471  
Carrier: J. Lee  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2115: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2115  
was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2115

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2115

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-23-07

Recorder Job Number: 1670

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Vice Chairman Grindberg** opened the hearing on SB 2115 at 10:45 am on January 23, 2007 in reference to the Adjutant General Department.

**Major General David A. Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General** presented written testimony (1) and gave oral testimony in support of SB 2115. He stated this bill addresses three of the seven issues we have identified as "necessities" that will have a positive impact on the National Guard, our members, and their families; other legislation addresses the remaining four.

1. Section 1 – Authority of the Governor to Activate the National Guard.
2. Section 2 – National guard Tuition Grant Program.
3. Sections 3, 4, and 5- Veteran's bonus Program.

**Senator Wardner** asked if the National Guard person lived in Montana could he come to school in North Dakota and get the bonus.

**Vice Chairman Grindberg** closed the hearing and reopened it as one more person wanted to testify.

**John L. Jacobson, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans**

**Coordinating Council** gave written testimony (2) and oral testimony stating the Council is opposed to this bill. He stated the Council consists of 15 members, 3 from each of the five

Page 2  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Bill/Resolution No. 2115  
Hearing Date: 01-23-07

Veterans Organizations in North Dakota: American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

**Senator Krebsbach** wanted to know if it was an unanimous decision.

**Senator Christmann** asked Mr. Jacobson to elaborate on his testimony.

**Vice Chairman Grindberg** closed the hearing on SB 2115.

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2115

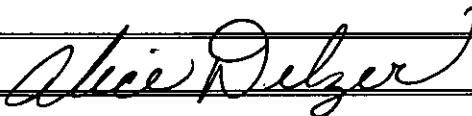
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-13-07

Recorder Job Number: 3464

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg** opened the hearing on SB 2115 regarding the Adj. General.

**Senator Grindberg** explained the bill stating this bill puts appropriations back in place for two years.

**Senator Grindberg moved a DO PASS, seconded by Senator Wardner.**

**Senator Robinson** had questions regarding whether this bill broadens the scope of payments.

**Chairman Holmberg** had questions if this is the bill relating to National Guard Soldiers living in Minnesota or South Dakota. He was told the other bill added the inactive military. We hoghoused it. Chairman Holmberg asked for a roll call vote on a do pass.

**A roll call vote was taken resulting in 13 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent. The motion carried.**

**Senator Grindberg will carry the bill.**

The hearing closed on SB 2115.

Date: 2/13/07  
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2115

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken do pass

Motion Made By Brundberg Seconded By Wardner

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm	✓		Senator Aaron Krauter	✓	
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm	✓		Senator Elroy N. Lindaas	✓	
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm	✓		Senator Tim Mathern		✓
Senator Randel Christmann	✓		Senator Larry J. Robinson	✓	
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour	✓	
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer	✓		Senator Harvey Tallackson	✓	
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 1

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Brundberg

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



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
February 13, 2007 5:28 p.m.

**Module No: SR-30-3140**  
**Carrier: Grindberg**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2115: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2115 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2115

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2115

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 2, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4247

Committee Clerk Signature

*Mollyan Bentler*

Minutes:

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** Testimony attached.

**Rep. Amerman:** I really like doing things for the service people beings I am a veteran myself. I think I need to get some things straight so I know better what I'm doing. All residents of ND being regular service National Guard, they are all getting a bonus regardless of where they serve?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** They are getting bonuses if they are immobilized and deployed away from their home station. There is also further language that talks about those that receive an expeditionary medal or a campaign medal for overseas duty. Essentially if you are immobilized and deployed away from your home, whether you are active or reserve you will receive the bonus. If you live in Lisbon and you are immobilized elsewhere in the country you would be eligible. If you are an active component and you are stationed at Fort Louis for example, you are not mobilized from your home Fort Louis you would not be eligible for the program.

**Rep. Amerman:** In the definition of Foreign Service, it is a veteran to receive the armed forces expeditionary medal or campaign badge. Under that, that is regular army that is in Iraq?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** Yes.

**Rep. Amerman:** Then domestic service means service by a veteran during a period of service which is not Foreign Service. Domestic service under current law, the only ones who get a bonus are the guard and the reserve? Someone in the regular service does not get it under Domestic Service?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** Yes. If they are mobilized away from their home that is correct.

**Rep. Amerman:** By domestic service, if we put into code that a non resident of the guard serves in France, but if someone that is from ND and is regular service serves in France, the guard member will get a bonus but the regular one won't, is that correct?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** No. They would still have to have that campaign medal.

**Rep. Amerman:** Which one? Both of them?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** My understanding of current law, both of them would.

**Rep. Amerman:** The only thing foreign is when you get these medals. Everything else, if you aren't in one of those war zones is domestic whether it is France or South Dakota. Would that be correct?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** If you don't mind I will call up Colonel Thiele who has been involved with this much longer.

**Colonel Dave Thiele:** The army reserve mobilized is specific language. It's not plugged it's not fires, its call up. You are on active duty. The army reserve members would be entitles to \$50 a month for service outside the operations. That is where you get the Campaign and Expedition Medals. The active component is eligible for \$400 a month for any service within the operations. They would be receiving the Campaign badge with the employee. That is citizenship.

**Rep. Amerman:** One last question so I can set this straight. We aren't trying to discriminate against anybody. Would there be a case where a non resident from Minnesota in our National

Guard is serving with someone that is a resident of our state in Georgia. The guard member would get the bonus because of Domestic Service where the regular would not?

**Colonel Thiele:** The guard member under the proposal resident or non resident would have to be mobilized. The active person is not mobilized, they are deployed. If you are mobilized you are eligible for state side service. The best example is that most of our units, we use the 142 as a prime example. We certainly have some non residents within that group. At the end of December 2002 within 10 days they were on their way to Fort Carson, Colorado. They were under Presidential orders so they were mobilized. They spent 3 months there in an airport hanger with one bathroom and cots lined up. They then went to Iraq and spent a year there. Both members would be eligible under this proposal, residents and non residents, for \$50 a month for the time period they were in Colorado, \$100/month for when they were in Iraq. I was on active duty during the first Gulf War. I was stationed at Fort Sheridan and Fort Knox during that time frame. I was on active duty but that was my assignment. This debate comes up all the time saying that if they leave North Dakota they are activated. I did not deploy. One of my good friends was deployed to Iraq in the first Gulf War. He would have been eligible for the bonus program and I would not have been.

**Rep. Dahl:** Do you know of the other states that have an activated bonus programs, and do they do something similar to what is being proposed here? Like allowing the non residents to be part of this bonus program?

**Colonel Thiele:** I'm not aware of the specifics. I know that every guard competes. We see that MN has ND residents, so we have MN residents. We are all very cognizant of that whole issue. I don't have a specific answer for us on that.

**Rep. Meier:** With the legislation you cast last session, did that with the active National Guard in ND, and were they able to take online classes from another state? Does it apply to

universities that are out of state, or online classes?

**Colonel Thiele:** The state funds that are provided for the tuition would not be allowed for out of state universities. There are federal funds that are available to us that we do use in instances like that. The tuition waiver program goes back quite a number of years. It is always focused on using state money for members of the ND National Guard and institutions within the state.

**Rep. Froseth:** The amount of this bonus is \$1,800. Is that for either domestic or foreign?

**Colonel Thiele:** If the service is state side, it is \$50/month with a maximum of \$900. If it's overseas its \$100/month with a maximum of \$1,800. It can be some combination. The amount per month depends on location and the maximum is \$900 or \$1800.

**Rep. Kasper:** On the bottom of page 1 where you are talking about the guard members who enroll in an accredited post secondary institution in ND, are you going to include the tribal colleges who are totally accredited?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** Yes. There are a total of 18 additional institutions in the state beyond the four year institutions. The tribal colleges are part of them.

**Rep. Kasper:** There are 5 tribal colleges in ND, and you intend to include all of them?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** Yes. There are 30 total institutions in the state.

**Rep. Kasper:** On line 3, I can't understand what the intent of the sentence is. Are we singling out UND for something special here?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** That is a benchmark.

**Colonel Thiele:** What that is, is a benchmark. We also have some private institutions that participate. We are just saying that the maximum amount is what UND charges.

**Rep. Amerman:** I'm feeling better but I still have to ask some questions. I just want to know that if we are going to put non residents that belong in the guard, I don't have a problem with that. I want to make sure that our residents are on regular service are going to get the same

bonus that a resident may not. Am I getting an Expeditionary medal or a Campaign badge if I'm in the regular army stationed in Germany.

**Colonel Thiele:** A campaign badge or medal is for services in the operations. It depends upon the nature of the conflict. Right now since 9/11 you have a fairly large region that would not include Germany.

**Rep. Amerman:** So I'm in Germany and that is my home. Now the guards are mobilized and a non resident from Minnesota is immobilized and he goes to Germany, now he will get a bonus. Then it must become domestic service

**Colonel Thiele:** A guard wouldn't go to Germany, but maybe to Fort Riley. We have this debate and Political Subdivisions is taking this up. We are going to be looking at this. The history behind it is going back to the first Gulf War when this current policy was established. If I'm at Fort Knox and basically leaving home. If you leave home right now and you can't go home to your family you are eligible for some sort of bonus whether you are active or reserve. The non resident guard guy is leaving his home and family. The component soldier who is in Germany typically has his family with him. When he gets done with work everyday he goes home to his family. That is the distinction. We can debate as a matter of policy whether or not that is where we want to draw the line. That is what the political subdivision is looking at. They may be considering an amendment and it was part of the original bill that will add that component to any service during the War on Terror.

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** My initial reaction is that going to Germany would be considered Domestic Service because there is not an expeditionary medal or campaign medal associated with it. To my knowledge we haven't had that question come up. I think that would be the answer though. I would also like to mention that certainly if this committee is interested in

including everyone on active duty we would not object to that. We would be willing to provide you with information on how many that might be and whatever else you might desire.

**Rep. Boehning:** On section 5 with the payments for the compensation. You are talking that the maximum amount is \$1,800. Is that per mobilization or is it just a one time payment no matter how many times they go?

**Dave Sprynczynatyk:** As I understand the law it would be a maximum of \$1,800 for the period of July 1992 to today. That is a maximum number. It is not per mobilization.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any other testimony on SB 2115? If not we will close the hearing on SB 2115.



## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2115

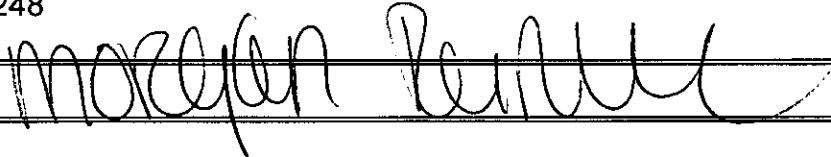
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 2, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4248

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Rep. Kasper:** I move a do pass.

**Rep. Karls:** I Second that.

**Rep. Amerman:** I would like to hold on to that just a little bit.

**Rep. Haas:** Will you withdraw your motions?

**Rep. Kasper:** No.

**Rep. Haas:** We have a motion on the floor for a do pass. Rep. Karls seconded that. What is the concern?

**Rep. Amerman:** I just want to make sure. I don't want to vote against a good bill. If our residents who are in the regular service are not getting the bonus but non residents will be getting a bonus, I want to make sure I'm right.

**Rep. Haas:** The way that I see that is the key factor is that the non residents is a member of the ND National Guard.

**Rep. Amerman:** Well a resident is a member of the army. He won't be getting a bonus that the non resident will be getting.

**Rep. Kasper:** I think those are apples and oranges issues. Members of the army are a total separate branch of the armed forces than the National Guard. This bill is designed to be

specific for the National Guard, not the regular army. Therefore, I don't see where the problem is. If we want to address a bill sometime in the next session for it that is a whole other issue.

**Rep. Amerman:** When the bullets are flying there are no apples or oranges. There is no discriminatory thing where they are going.

**Rep. Kasper:** All I can say is that they are different issues.

**Rep. Boehning:** The only concern I've got is section 5. I was under the assumption that they were given a bonus for each mobilization. I'm wondering if we shouldn't have that for each mobilization because a lot of these guys have gone back two or three times. Is that something we could get, what the fiscal note would be on that? There is a lot of guys that said they want us to vote for a bonus for them again. A lot of them have capped out at the \$1,800. I think that is something that we should take a look at. I know it will be quite high but it's only fair to these guys.

**Rep. Kasper:** In light of both concerns I will withdraw my motion.

**Rep. Karls:** I will withdraw my motion also.

**Rep. Haas:** Rep. Amerman and Rep. Boehning you have until next Thursday to get our information.

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2115

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: ~~February 8, 2007~~ 3-8-07

Recorder Job Number: 4643

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Revue*

Minutes:

**Rep. Haas:** We were holding this bill for two reasons. Rep. Amerman and Rep. Boehning wanted to get some more information on that. Rep. Boehning's question was answered and he provided me with a letter that he got from Lt. Colonel Thiele. His question essentially was why the veteran can't receive a benefit if they are deployed on more than one campaign.

Essentially his response was that they currently have the most rebuts bonus program in the country. While we can never adequately recognize the sacrifices the soldiers and their family, the additional cost would be \$2 million per biennium. It was his recommendation that we not consider that. Rep. Boehning told me that he was satisfied with that response and in his concern that we could proceed with the bill.

**Rep. Amerman:** That was a good point because I wasn't quite sure what Rep. Boehning's concerns were. I appreciate the Colonel's response. I'm not so sure by the statute my mobilization if it is correct by law. By mobilization they may be deployed or mobilized stateside or over to a combat zone. Then they come back and resume their regular lives. Two years down the road they mobilized again. I'm not so sure that they wouldn't have an argument if they got mobilized again that they should be entitled to the bonus. I understand where the

