

2009 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1482

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1482

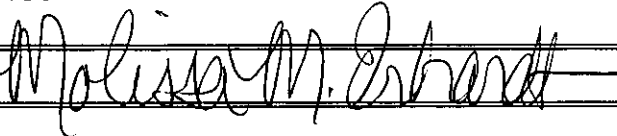
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1/29/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8103

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Grande: Open the hearing on HB 1482. Clerk read the title.

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: I am here on behalf of Governor Hoeven and Major General David Sprynczynatyk, who would be here, but there is an appropriations hearing at this same time. This was part of Gov. Hoeven's packet. Part of his packet to care for citizens and their families from the simulating they took it out of HB 1016 and made a completely separate bill. Simply put, what HB 1482 does is remove the cap on benefits and (shuffling of papers). We have a long history of supporting our service members, our combat veterans going back to WW I, and virtually every sustained conflict since. See Attachment # 1. Testimony.

I would like to read some of the names that would benefit from this bill if approved by the assembly. Captain Aaron Schwankler, Active Duty, Army; Master Sergeant Delane Brandon, US Air Force; Staff Sergeant Craig Dahlen, US Army; Captain Gerald Habiger, US Marines; Staff Sergeant Darrin Dansen,

US Marines; Corporal Chad Langberger, US Marines. I have also brought with me today two young men from the National Guard who will both benefit from this. First, there is Staff Sergeant David Laura, who was a two-time deployer, who has already reached the cap and along with him is Staff Sergeant Cory Vincent, who was already deployed and is scheduled to deploy again. The list goes on for the service members who will benefit from this. Need to give kudos to my brother-in-law the Marine, he is ND born and raised, he will retire after 20 years in the Marine Corp as a First Sergeant. Any questions?

Chairman Grande: When we are talking about how we did this the past few bienniums did we have regular/active Army services in the bonus program or would that be something new?

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: We have always been a part of the bonus program, as we talked about earlier, the bonus program is set up, to explain it in simplest terms, if you leave your home you are going to be entitled to some monies. If you are in the National Guard and Reserves and you do not leave the continental US, it's going to be limited to \$50 a month. But if you leave the continental US, the active component is they deploy, when they go overseas in support of the global war on terror, they will receive a \$100 a month for every month of service. That has always been in place.

Chairman Grande: The cap is for these gentlemen who would go over and they would do a tour, and come home, and go again, they would not get paid a second time?

Lt. Col. David Thiele: Yes. The current cap is \$1800. For stateside service the cap is \$900. What we are finding obviously from 2005, to 2009, don't think that anyone imagined we would be sitting in a situation where we would basically be in a global conflict with no clear end in sight. Multiple deployments, hate to say it, but they are all continuous at this point. We have had people with three or four deployments. The active component typically doesn't deploy for a year, but they will go for six months, come back for six months, go back for six months, that's kind of a common thing, particularly in the Marine Corp. That is very difficult for them because of the constant coming and going.

Chairman Grande: The difference between the guy in the Army side of the National Guard and they go over for 13 months, but my Air Guard guy he goes over and gets to come back, then he goes over. But he has even said, I don't do, what he has to do. But he was still getting his bonuses until he reached the cap?

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: Yes. They are essentially based upon months of service. There is a good example: they do much shorter deployments, typically. On the Army side, it is a year. Typically, now the way the training is, it's twelve months in the theater. Because we do a lot of our training prior to our mobilization. In the

early mobilizations, the 141 and 142, being good examples, they may have spent three or four months in Ft Carson, Texas in training. Those days are gone now. In the current environment, it's limited to twelve months.

Chairman Grande: When we put them over at Ft. Carson for those three months were they under the bonus program then or do they not get \$50 versus \$100?

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: \$50.

Rep. Froseth: Will you clarify the dates on this? It looks like this program is originally intended to end on June 30th, 2009? So will it be extended to 2011? Then whatever funds are left will be transferred to the sedentary trust fund on July 1, 2011 and June 30th, 2015.

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: Procedure was what we (shuffle papers), and this goes back since 2005. They simply allow us to be exempt from returning the remaining funds back in. So every two years we have been extending it. That is why we have an extension to 2011. Assuming that the program wouldn't be reinstated in the next Legislative Assembly, it would be then transferred into the trust fund.

Chairman Grande: This program as it is listed in the bill today is going to be about \$2 million right?

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: We have about \$1.5 million which would be carried over, we anticipate an additional \$500,000. I cannot tell you how much will be remaining at the end of the biennium. We do have a bubble with the Kosovo deployment, we will be taking approximately 650 to 700 ND soldiers for a year. But we will not know what impact it will have and obviously we cannot predict two years from now. Theoretically, we are going to be gearing down in Iraq but gearing up in Afghanistan so we will have to see.

Chairman Grande: I ask only because I know I will be asked what I am looking at for general fund for 2011 and 2013? Even though it has the end point.

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: The Appropriations committee asked that question. We are ball parking your annual cost at \$478,000. That will include lifting the cap. So about \$500,000 a year, and a \$1 million a biennium. We believe it will be sufficient.

Chairman Grande: Questions from the committee? Any more in favor?

Gene Kouba, President of the Veteran's Coordination Council: I polled all my members, all commanders, adjutants, and one member-at-large, all fifteen members must support a bill for us to support it. We had a unanimous vote from all my members. We wish that would be a Do Pass on this bill. I would like to correct one thing that the Lt. Col. said. There was one group in the very first bonus that we paid, the ND Veteran's, that did not get paid. It has always been

something that has bothers me. If you have been in the service for seven consecutive years, on active duty, you do not get a bonus from ND, because you are considered a life member or a member of the service or you are no longer a residence of the State. We did not pay members that had seven consecutive years in the military. I feel that was wrong, so I wanted to throw that out there. Be glad to answer any questions if you have any?

Chairman Grande: Anyone else to testify on behalf of 1482?

Ron Otto, Morton and Oliver County Veteran's Service Officer and

President for the Professional Veteran's Advocates in ND: Professional

Veteran's Advocates of ND are a group of Veteran's service officers and we

service over 71% of the veteran population in our State. I stand in support of this bill. This is long overdue. Back in my day in Viet Nam, we got a bonus that was maxed out also. When you are having multiple deployments and these families are sacrificing their head of households, and at times the only head of households that is out there, they need a little extra money in their pockets to come home. Number one for readjustment, because they have to have some down time. That money in their pocket helps them do that. So I stand in support of the bill.

Chairman Grande: Any questions? Anyone else in favor?

Lonnie Wangen, Commission of Veteran's Affairs for State of ND: I am also a member of the ND National Guard, have been deployed, have had many friends who have been deployed multiple times, and have had recurring deployments. When they return from the second and third times, they need longer and more help for any adjustments. They have more problems with readjustments. There is no way we can ever repay them for the service and to extend this gratitude it would be a great thing to support. Any questions?

Chairman Grande: Questions from the committee?

John Jacobsen, 30 years in the ND National Guard and Reserve: I am a recipient of the bonus program from Desert Storm and it was clearly appreciated and helped fill the holes that were created when I was gone. I would like to see the program extended.

Chairman Grande: Any questions? Anyone else in favor? Opposed? Neutral?

Hearing is closed on 1482.

Rep. Amerman: Lt. Col. Dave Thiele pointed out, on page 3, where the numbers are wrong.

Chairman Grande: Do you wish to amend?

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: Don't know if you wish to, but the numbers are wrong.

Chairman Grande: That is a technical thing that can be corrected.

Rep. Froseth: Lt. Col. Thiele, you said something about appropriations, they haven't reviewed this bill already have they?

Chairman Grande: The reason why this bill is in front of us is we are dealing with the policy change of removing the caps and extending the programs. That is why that bill is in front of us. Our issue is not how much money is being spent, it's whether or not we wish to continue this policy. Today this bill is in front of us on the policy issue changes, as whether or not we feel it is appropriate to continue this program and whether or not we as a Legislative Body feel the removal of the cap is appropriate.

Lt. Col. Dave Thiele: It was in the Governor's Budget, but it was removed and carved out.

Chairman Grande: It was removed, because of the policy change. The dollars are down in appropriations. That is what the fiscal note alludes to. This will be re-referred back to appropriations. They wanted to know whether or not we as a policy committee felt it was appropriate to do this.

Rep. Dahl: Do pass.

Chairman Grande: Do pass motion by Rep. Dahl and 2nd motion by Rep. Kasper.

Rep. Boehning: Do we need to make a motion to the correction?

Chairman Grande: I don't know that we need that amendment put in but we can certainly state that amendment. Rep. Dahl are those your wishes?

Rep. Dahl: Yes, madam chair to renumber accordingly.

Chairman Grande: 2nd by Rep. Kasper. Comments from the committee? See none. Clerk will call the roll as a Do Pass motion on HB 1482. There were 13 Yes, 0 No, None absent. Rep. Meier will carry. Hearing closed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. Committee Work One HB 1482

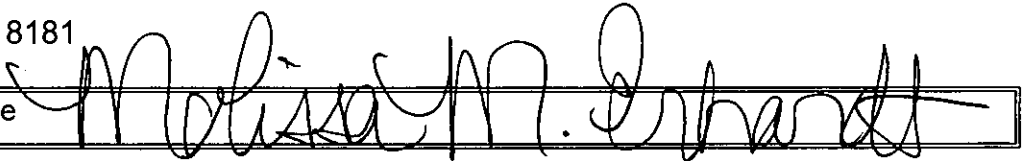
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/29/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8181

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Committee Work One:

Chairman Grande: HB 1482, we voted that out. It was our first bill this morning.

We thought that the sequencing was incorrect, actually, it is not, it was meant to

be that way. Because it deals with different sections and there are different

section references. What I need to do is ask if the committee is willing to

reconsider the actions that we took this morning?

Rep. Schneider: So move.

Rep. Wolf: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: All in favor? I. (all consent). So what I want to do here

committee is just ask that we can go back to the motion of the Do Pass, but we

will not have it as amended. So it will just be a straight Do Pass.

Rep. Dahl: So move.

Chairman Grande: Do Pass motion by Rep. Dahl.

Rep. Nathe: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: 2nd by Rep. Nathe.

Rep. Kasper: Don't we have to remove the amendment first.

Chairman Grande: Yes. We need a motion to remove that amendment.

Rep. Dahl: So move.

Rep. Schneider: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: All in favor? I. (all consent). Now we have the original bill 1482, in its original form in front of us. The motion for a Do Pass.

Rep. Dahl: So move.

Rep. Nathe: 2nd.

Rep. Schneider: Does this have to go to appropriations?

Chairman Grande: Yes it will be re-referred to appropriations. Any discussion?

Yes: 13. No: 0. Absent: 0. Re-referred to appropriations.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/20/2009

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1482

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.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$500,000			
Appropriations			\$500,000			

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

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 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).*

Bill would remove the current caps of \$900 for domestic service and \$1,800 for foreign service as it relates to payments of adjusted compensation.

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.*

Section 2. Amendment removes caps for adjusted compensation payments for domestic and foreign service.

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.*

None

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.*

Expenditures increase by \$500,000 general funds as veterans compensation payments, paid through the grants line of the budget.

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.*

Appropriations are also increased by \$500,000 general funds. This appropriation amount is in the 09-11 biennial executive budget.

Name:	Holly Gaugler	Agency:	Adjutant General
Phone Number:	(701) 333-2079	Date Prepared:	01/20/2009

#1

Date: 1-29-09
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1482

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DP as Amended

Motion Made By Dahl Seconded By Kasper

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Grande	✓		Rep. Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Boehning	✓		Rep. Conklin	✓	
Rep. Dahl	✓		Rep. Schneider	✓	
Rep. Froseth	✓		Rep. Winrich	✓	
Rep. Karls	✓		Rep. Wolf	✓	
Rep. Kasper	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Nathe	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Meier

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

#2

Date: 1/29/09
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _____

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 1482

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Dahl Seconded By Nathe

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Grande	✓		Rep. Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Boehning	✓		Rep. Conklin	✓	
Rep. Dahl	✓		Rep. Schneider	✓	
Rep. Froseth	✓		Rep. Winrich	✓	
Rep. Karls	✓		Rep. Wolf	✓	
Rep. Kasper	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Nathe	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Meier

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

Re-referred to Appropriation

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1482: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Grande, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee**
(13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1482 was rereferred to the
Appropriations Committee.

2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1482

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1482

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 11, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 9282

Committee Clerk Signature

Jeanette Cook

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjan took up HB 1482.

Rep. Lisa Meier approached the podium and explained HB 1482. Currently, when veterans serve overseas we pay a bonus of \$900. This bill lifts the cap and pays them a bonus for each time they serve overseas. We looked at a \$500,000 appropriation, but since we have been in war for some time, we think this is a very fair thing to do for our veterans.

Svedjan: A bonus is for each tour of overseas service? That is not limited to the war on terror.

Meier: Yes. No.

Wald: Could this come out of the veteran's post war trust fund rather than the general fund?

Delzer: The Adjutant General's bill, 1016, had this in it before. This is one of the issues that were separated out. What is in the bill for language is, "The remaining \$1.5 million would be used, of the \$5 million we originally did with this. There's an additional \$500k for the upcoming biennium to cover this. We don't know what it will cost in the next biennium."

Rep. Delzer: The next session will have to appropriate money to continue this.

Rep. Klein: Is this retroactive to those who have already served overseas?

Rep. Meier: Yes, and there is an emergency clause on the bill.

Svedjan: The Fiscal Note shows \$500,000. This is already included in the budget.

Repl. Delzer: The Fiscal Note is an additional \$500,000. There is also language in the budget to allow them to access the \$1.5 million that is carryover.

Rep. Grande: Appropriations gave the Adjutant General \$5 million a couple of bienniums ago, and they have been paying out in that bonus. There is \$1.5 million left. They think it will take that plus the \$500,000 to cover this.

Representative Wieland moved a Do Pass.

Representative Metcalf seconded the motion.

Representative Meier: For clarification, where is the retroactive section on the bill.

Metcalf: It is on page 2 paragraph 6.

Rep. Delzer: There was some discussion about the removal of the cap. That may affect more people in the next biennium than in this biennium.

A roll call vote was taken. **Aye 25 Nay 0 Absent 0**

The motion passed.

Representative Meier will carry HB 1482.

Date: 2/11/09
 Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1482

Full House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Wieland Seconded By Metcalf

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan	✓				
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Rep. Skarphol	✓		Rep. Kroeber	✓	
Rep. Wald	✓		Rep. Onstad	✓	
Rep. Hawken	✓		Rep. Williams	✓	
Rep. Klein	✓				
Rep. Martinson	✓				
Rep. Delzer	✓		Rep. Glassheim	✓	
Rep. Thoreson	✓		Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Berg	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. Dosch	✓				
Rep. Pollert	✓		Rep. Ekstrom	✓	
Rep. Bellew	✓		Rep. Kerzman	✓	
Rep. Kreidt	✓		Rep. Metcalf	✓	
Rep. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 25 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Meier

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 13, 2009 6:04 p.m.

Module No: HR-27-2798
Carrier: L. Meler
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1482: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(25 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1482 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1482

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.1482

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/05/09

Recorder Job Number: 10274

Committee Clerk Signature	<i>Katie Owsa</i>
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Minutes:

Chairman Dever opened the public hearing on HB1482. Alan Dohrman was there to introduce the bill.

Alan Dohrman: Deputy Adjunct General for the State of North Dakota. See attached testimony #1.

Senator Horne: What is the bonus for each deployed person?

Alan Dohrman: Each deploying soldier receives \$50 a month for domestic service and \$100 for foreign service. Usually there is 2-3 months of pre mobilization training and 9-10 months out of the county.

Senator Nelson: Since you are holding over that money at the end of the biennium. Where is the Veteran Cemetery Trust Fund getting their money?

Alan Dohrman: I know it comes from a number of sources license plates and other avenues. When we first got the appropriation we received more than we needed. Never got any push back on this bill or previous bills that we have introduced to keep this program going.

Senator Dever: The amendments on page 1 and 2 do we need to reconcile those 2 or am I reading that wrong?

Alan Dohrman: We should introduce an amendment to make sure that it is consistent with all sections of the bill. For those situations we are trying to address we have paid those bonuses. These are just a handful of people that were deployed in unique situations.

Chairman Dever closed the public hearing on HB1482.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.1482

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/05/09

Recorder Job Number: 10409

Committee Clerk Signature *Kate O'Neil*

Minutes:

A motion was made by Senator Nelson with a second by Senator Cook for a do pass. There was no discussion and roll was taken. The motion passed 5-0 with Senator Oehlke carrying the bill.

Date: 3-6-09
Roll Call Vote #: 1

Carrier
Oehlke

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1482

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken NO PASS

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Cook

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Dick Dever	X		Dwight Cook	1	
Dave Oehlke	X		Carolyn Nelson	1	
Robert M. Horne	X				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 6, 2009 1:21 p.m.

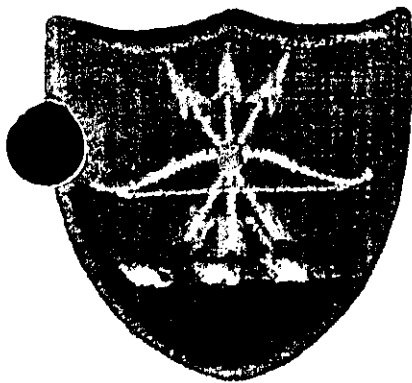
Module No: SR-41-4227
Carrier: Oehlke
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1482: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1482
was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1482



Army National Guard

"The Straight Arrows"



Air National Guard

"The Happy Hooligans"



*Department of
Emergency Services
Homeland Security &
State Radio*

*The
Office of the
Adjutant General*

*Testimony of
Lieutenant Colonel David Thiele*

before the

*House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 29, 2009*

HOUSE BILL 1482

TESTIMONY OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID THIELE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 2009
HOUSE BILL 1482

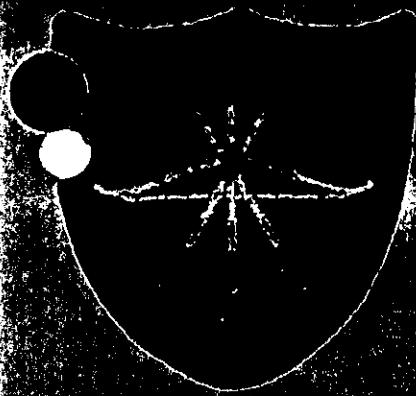
Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

North Dakota has long recognized the sacrifice and commitment of our wartime veterans. The veteran's bonus program was first authorized in WWI and has been reinstated for every major conflict since (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, 1st Gulf War). The current program, which recognizes service in the Global War on Terror, was authorized by the 2005 Legislative Assembly. The original appropriation was for \$5.0 million and has been sufficient to cover program costs. As of January 1, 2009, we have processed 3,479 applications for the veterans bonus with \$3,267,734 paid out. We have made 72 payments of \$2,500 for Purple Heart awards and an additional 19 awards of \$5,000 each to the families of Fallen Heroes who died while mobilized.

HB 1482 recognizes what most could not imagine in 2005, that in 2009, and for the foreseeable future, the United States would be in an ongoing global conflict with multiple and lengthy deployments/mobilizations becoming almost routine. The current law limits the bonus program to \$1,800 per service member for the entire period of the current conflict. Many service members and families are questioning this limit given the incredible sacrifice that multiple deployments bring. HB 1482 removes the cap on benefits and allows service members to receive the benefits simply based on period of service. HB 1482 also allows Purple Heart recipients to receive \$2,500 for a Purple Heart for each deployment or mobilization.

The projected additional cost to lift the cap on benefits is \$500,000, which will cover future costs and, since the bill is retroactive, also covers costs for service members that would be entitled to additional benefits for prior deployments/mobilizations. Section 6 of the bill authorizes any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the current biennium to be carried over into the 2009-2011 biennium. We anticipate about \$1.5 million of the original \$5.0 million appropriation will be remaining as of June 30, 2009. The bill is also declared an emergency measure to ensure no delay in paying benefits.

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, on behalf of the service members and their families, I would respectfully request a "Do Pass" on HB 1482. I would be pleased to respond to any questions, Madam Chairman.



Army National Guard

"Five Sacred Arrows"



Air National Guard

"The Happy Bloodlines"



*Department of
Emergency Services
Homeland Security &
State Radio*

*The
Office of the
Adjutant General*

*Testimony of
Brigadier General Alan Dohrmann
Deputy Adjutant General*

before the

Senate Government Veterans Affairs Committee

March 5, 2009

HOUSE BILL 1482

TESTIMONY OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL ALAN DOHRMANN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2009
HOUSE BILL 1482

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, on behalf of the service members and their families, I would respectfully request a "Do Pass" on HB 1482. I would be pleased to respond to any questions, Mr. Chairman.

Dever, Dick D.

From: Dohrmann, Al BG NGND [alan.dohrmann@us.army.mil]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 12:27 PM
To: Dever, Dick D.
CC: Hagel, Michelle Capt. NGND; Thiele, David L.; Sprynczynatyk, General David A.; French, Davina MAJ NGND
Subject: HB1482 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Sen Dever,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1482 this morning. I wanted to follow-up on your question pertaining to the definition of "veteran" and "resident" and whether the language on page 1, line 23 should be added to these definitions.

After reviewing Section 1 of the Bill, I don't believe we need to add the language "or performed service overseas in direct support to the global war on terror" to the definitions of "Veteran" and "Resident". The reason is that the "expeditionary medal or campaign badge" language in lines 8-21 of page 2 only applies to the active component. The problem we were addressing in line 23 of page 1 does not create a conflict with the "Resident" and "Veteran" definitions on page 2 for members of the National Guard, and, since all active component deployments in support of the GWOT are tied to a campaign ribbon or expeditionary medal, the new language on page 1 does not apply to the Active Component. To apply it to the Active Component could lead to a situation where a stateside mechanic at a Air Force Heavy Airlift unit received a bonus for every month he performed maintenance on an aircraft that was flying and out of theater. I don't believe this is the intent of the bonus program.

Our legal staff is reviewing the entire Bill. If my take here is wrong, we will provide your clerk a proposed amendment. We can also provide an amendment to fix the numbering problem (Bill goes from Section 3 to Section 6 to Section 4) if that is required.

If you need me to clarify anything, I am available at the committee's call.

AL Dohrmann
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE