

2011 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1415

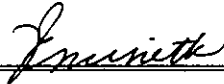
2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB1415
02/04/2011
14062

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Porter: we will open the hearing HB 1415.

Rep. Meyer I represent district 36. I am here today to represent HB 1415 which would allocate four deer licenses annually to the Wounded Warrior Project.

One night while watching the evening news a group of veterans and brothers were moved by the difficult stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. They realized that something needed to be done for these brave individuals beyond the brass bands and parades. (see attachment 1) I have several gentlemen who would like to tell you more about this state program.

Rep. Porter: Are there any question for Rep. Meyer? Four deer licenses would be issued to the project and then distributed to the Wounded Warrior Project. Are these guided hunts? Is there an obligation to the Wounded Warrior Project to be part of the hunt so that the benefit is there?

Rep. Meyer: That is what I allotted to and hopefully you will get more information on this. The pursuit of the hunt needs to be supervised somewhat, not in every case.

Rep. Porter: Is the Wounded Warrior Project state wide with local off shuts or is it each local project.

Rep. Meyer: My intention is that it is four licenses state wide to be administered by the Wounded Warriors Project. The local entities could apply to the state wide Wounded Warrior Project.

Glen Gietzen: I live in Halliday North Dakota I come from a military family. I have been in law enforcement for 34 years. In December I was in Pennsylvania visiting my son-in-law and daughter. My son-in-law is a member of the Wounded Warrior Project. They took injured marines to Texas on hunting trips. This trip was very successful. I then thought "why don't we do this in North Dakota and can he come to North Dakota and bring hunters here?"

I can't see why we can't do that in North Dakota. The problem we have right now is the lottery system. If someone from Pennsylvania would apply for a deer license they would be on a lottery system so we would like at least four tags in the area of their choice.

We would assist these hunters during the hunt because they may have handicaps. My son-in-law has agreed to bring them to North Dakota. The trip would be paid for by donations. I already have \$4,000.00 pledged to this project. We are not asking for tax dollars. There are volunteers on board that would help take the hunters hunting to help them with any help they need. The volunteers would not carry guns until the legal season when they could legally carry a gun. We want to name this project "The Wounded Warrior Wildlife Project of North Dakota." The money would be deposited to the bank at Halliday. What I am asking for is the consideration of four deer tags for any area in North Dakota for four veterans which will be with escorts during the hunt.

Rep. Porter: Is your organization a nonprofit organization? Is it a 503c?

Glenn Gietzen: I am working with the American Legal Service to get a tax exempt status.

Rep. Porter: Is the organization incorporated ?

Glenn Gietzen: No we are not.

Rep. Hanson: Would you oppose changing line 9 from "season to the close of any deer season" so that it would include the bow hunters which can the first of January or so?

Glenn Gietzen: I would not oppose that.

Rep. Hunsakor: Did you say wounded soldiers from all over the country would have a chance. Would the wounded warriors from North Dakota have more preference?

Glenn Gietzen: Right now we are restricted to North Dakota. We would like to open this up to everyone in the country.

Rep. Nelson: Would the program take care of the Hunter Safety Course? Do you have someone to give the Hunters Education Course?

Glenn Gietzen: I don't foresee a problem. I would think those that apply would have hunted before. If we do need a gun, many have already volunteered to donate a gun for the hunt. As far as the Hunter Safety Course I will check into that.

Rep. Anderson: Do you need more than four licenses? We issue 120,000 deer permits in our state, four seems like very little if you need more we could address that too.

Glenn Gietzen: We would like to start with four hunters and see how this works out.

Rep. Anderson: You won't have a problem with the apprentice program.

Rep. Porter: Are there any other questions for Glenn Gietzen? Is there any other support for HB 1415?

Dan Dolechek: I live in Killdeer. By allowing the state to issue these four deer tags would create lifelong memories for any service member that that is so deserving of this program.

To have young adults love for the outdoors taken from them because of a disability received while defending our freedom would be devastating. I can only imagine the joy it would bring not to mention the therapeutic and emotional healing it would create for any young adult who has sacrificed so much for our county.

Rep. Porter: Are there any questions for Mr. Dolechek? Is there further testimony in support?

Mike Donahue: I am from the North Wildlife Federation. We support the State of North Dakota providing these licenses to these wounded warriors.

Rep. Porter: Are there any questions for Mr. Donahue? Is there further testimony in support?

Foster Ray Hager: I represent Cass County Wildlife. We are fully in support of this program and hope that it is a success.

Rep. Porter: Is there further testimony in support? Is there any opposition?

Rep. Porter: These are never as easy as they look. We have many regulations in place with our hunter education program and other things in place that would preclude a person from being able to use one of these tags if they qualified through the project. Looking at language in the overview what are your thoughts on the Department's ability to issue a tag like this for an individual?

Roger Rostvet: Deputy Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. It looks like this would be very easy to work with. I talked the licensing administration people and they said they would ask for the name and follow all the same requirements as issuing any other type of tag.

Rep. Porter: Is there a limiting language that says the individual could only come here once that hasn't got hunter education?

Roger Rostvet: They would only be eligible one time they would be entered into the database, all future applications would be rejected until they completed hunter education.

Rep. Porter: Are there any other questions for Mr. Rostvet? Are those licenses basically from September to January? Are those limited to a specific season?

Roger Rostvet: We would issue the tags much like other organizations like the Make a Wish Foundation. Some of the licenses are open and some are for a regular season.

Rep. Porter: We will close the hearing.

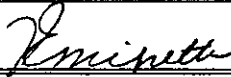
2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1415
02/04/2011
14376

Conference Committee/

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Porter: We will open HB 1415. This is the Wounded Warrior Project that was presented last week.

Rep. Hanson: Did we want to change to any deer season and take the word gun out so they can hunt with a bow and arrow?

Rep. Porter: I think you are right because if the person wants to use a muzzle loader or a bow and arrow. It does stop it in November.

Roger Rostvet: If you are going to read it like it says "issue any license," it doesn't say "any gun or rifle license" it says in any license meaning this is a free pass for a hunting license.

Rep. Porter: Look on line 9 we need to strike the word gun that would make it valid if they wanted to hunt by bow through the first week-end of January and it would make it valid during the muzzle loader season. Correct?

Roger Rostvet: Yes

Rep. Kreun: In line 3 deer license to a Wounded Warrior Project. Do we need an entity to describe this too? Is this defined well enough the way it is?

Roger Rostvet: They will be officially sanctioned by that time.

Rep. DeKrey: I would move line 9 that we strike the word "regular and gun"

Rep. Nathe: Second

Rep. Porter: Voice vote taken. Motion carried

Rep. DeKrey: I move a Do Pass as amended on HB 1415.

Rep. Hanson: Second

Rep. Porter: We will call the roll on a Do Pass as amended to HB 1415.
Motion carries

YES 13 NO 0 ABSENT 2 CARRIER: Rep. Hanson

February 10, 2011

VR
2/11/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1415

Page 1, line 9, remove "regular"

Page 1, line 9, remove "gun"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-10-11
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1415

House House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep DeKrey Seconded By Rep Nathe

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter			Rep. Hanson		
Vice Chairman Damschen			Rep. Hunskor		
Rep. Brabandt			Rep. Kelsh		
Rep. Clark			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. DeKrey					
Rep. Hofstad					
Rep. Kasper					
Rep. Keiser					
Rep. Kreun					
Rep. Nathe					
Rep. Anderson					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

*Main vote taken motion, carried
 to remove the word regular + the word gun on line 9.*

Date: 2-10-11
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1475

House House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep DeKrey Seconded By Rep Hanson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter	✓		Rep. Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman Damschen	✓		Rep. Hunsakor	✓	
Rep. Brabandt	✓		Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Clark	✓		Rep. Nelson	✓	
Rep. DeKrey	✓				
Rep. Hofstad		AB			
Rep. Kasper	AB				
Rep. Keiser	✓				
Rep. Kreun	✓				
Rep. Nathe	✓				
Rep. Anderson	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep Hanson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1415: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1415 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 9, remove "regular"

Page 1, line 9, remove "gun"

Renumber accordingly

2011 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1415

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Natural Resources Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1415
March 17, 2011
Job #15576

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature	<i>Veronica Spurling</i>
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Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the duty of the game and fish director to issue deer licenses to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Minutes:

Testimony Attached

Chairman Lyson opened the hearing on HB 1415.

Representative Shirley Meyer, District 36, introduced HB 1415. See **Attachment #1**. Veterans, in the line of duty, have used guns for other purposes. One of things that was very difficult for them was one of the greatest loves they had had, of hunting, suddenly they could not do it anymore. This Wounded Warrior Program encouraged them to hunt recreationally again and that was a good step toward healing. **Senator Triplett**: Where did you get the number four from?

Representative Shirley Meyer: It is an arbitrary number. It is a start.

Senator Triplett: That number seems stingy.

Representative Shirley Meyer: Any amendments to that end would be appreciated.

Glenn Gietzen, who is from a military family, now works in law enforcement and is a Vietnam Veteran, gave a background on the Wounded Warrior Project. See **Attachment #2**. His daughter was commissioned a lieutenant in the Marine Corps in December. Her husband is back from Afghanistan. He had taken two wounded veterans to hunt in Texas. They were being treated in Bethesda, MD at a hospital for the Marine Corps. One of the guys he took down there had lost part of his skull in a sniper attack. The hunt went well. Glenn was inspired by that story and is in the process of starting a 501C3 that would bring wounded warriors from Bethesda, MD to hunt in North Dakota. He read a letter from a wounded warrior. See **Attachment #3**. He told the Natural Resource Committee members who is serving as the executive committee for the newly formed 501C3. He explained the reason for asking for only four licenses. He didn't want any resistance to the bill. To fly the guys in and out from Bethesda, MD is pricy and they operate on donations. They are starting out slowly to see how it will work. He is looking for annual donations. Only the wounded warrior can hunt, not the person who escorts them. There will be no cost to the

wounded warrior can hunt, not the person who escorts them. There will be no cost to the Wounded Warriors. People have been making generous donations of hunts, land to hunt on, funds, etc.

Dan Dolechek, President of the board of the 501C3 being formed, presented written testimony in favor of HB 1415. See **Attachment #4**. Support for the project has been overwhelming. A hunting opportunity can be an important part of the healing process for people who have defended our freedom.

Mike Donahue, ND Wildlife Federation, stood wholeheartedly in support of HB 1415.

Foster Ray Hager, Cass County Wildlife, stood to support this bill. They would like to see it continue and grow larger.

John Jacobsen, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council, presented written testimony in favor of HB 1415. See **Attachment #5**.

Opposition: None

Chairman Lyson closed the hearing on HB 1415.

Senator Schneider made a motion for a Do Pass.

Senator Burckhard: Second

Senator Triplett: The comments about why they wanted to start out slowly were perfectly reasonable so there is a benefit to passing this as the House passed it. I will agree to the Do Pass without amendment.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-1

Carrier: Senator Schneider

Date: 3-17-11
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1415

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Schneider Seconded By Burckhard

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Lyson	✓		Senator Schneider	✓	
Vice-Chair Hogue			Senator Triplett	✓	
Senator Burckhard	✓				
Senator Freborg	✓				
Senator Uglem	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Schneider

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1415, as engrossed: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1415 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HB 1415

#1

Chairman Lyson

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Lyson and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for the record my name is Shirley Meyer and I represent District 36.


I'm here today to present HB 1415 which would allocate four any deer licenses annually to the Wounded Warrior Project.

I would like to give you a little history about how the Wounded Warrior Project began, and how several individuals took small, inspired actions to help others in need.

One night while watching the evening news, a group of veterans and brothers were moved by the difficult stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. They realized then and there that something needed to be done for these brave individuals beyond the brass bands and ticker tape parades.

The resulting objective was to provide tangible support for the wounded and help them on the road to healing, both physically and mentally.


WWP was founded in Roanoke, Virginia and is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, FL. Their mission of honoring and empowering wounded warriors has led to many innovative programs and outreach efforts.



They have categorized their programs under four main focus areas- Mind, Body, Economic Empowerment, and Engagement. Under each of these areas you will find a variety of programs to meet needs ranging from benefit assistance to PTSD identification.

MIND: Through WWP's Family Support and Combat Stress Recovery Programs, warriors are given the tools to pursue their life goals without the barriers or stigmas associated with mental or physical issues.

BODY: Through adaptive sports, health, nutrition, and recreational activities, WWP helps warriors achieve independence and pursue an excellent quality of life.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: WWP offers higher education programs, information technology training, and employment assistance services to encourage economic empowerment for warriors to provide long-term financial stability for themselves and their families.

ENGAGEMENT: WWP was created to ensure injured service members stay connected with one another. WWP has both a Peer Mentoring and robust Alumni program, which engage warriors to become involved. Additionally, the Policy & Government affairs program ensures injured warriors and their families have a voice in local and national advocacy and legislative issues.

Please support HB 1415



#2



Background

MISSION

To honor and empower wounded warriors.

PURPOSE

To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service members, to help them aid and assist each other, and to provide programs and services to meet their needs.

VISION

To foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded warriors in our nation's history.

HISTORY

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) began when several individuals took small, inspired actions to help others in need. One night while watching the evening news, veterans and friends were moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. They realized something needed to be done for these brave individuals beyond the brass bands and ticker tape parades. What started as a program to provide comfort items to wounded service members as they arrive in the hospitals has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life. Thousands of wounded warriors and caregivers receive support each year through the following WWP programs designed to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment:

- Combat Stress Recovery
- Policy and Government Affairs
- Caregiver and Family Support
- Benefits Services
- WWP Packs
- Soldier Ride
- Physical Health & Rehabilitation
- WWP Alumni
- TRACK
- Transition Training Academy
- Warriors to Work
- Peer Mentoring
- Hospital Outreach

The greatest casualty is being forgotten.

Introduction

Wounded Warrior Project's (WWP) legislative program aims to support through policy development the organization's goal of helping wounded warriors to thrive – physically, psychologically, and economically. Based in Washington, D.C., WWP's policy and government affairs team works with our field staff and with injured service members and their families to identify programmatic needs, and conducts research and policy analysis to translate those needs into forward-looking policy changes. The experience of our warriors and their families, along with careful research and analysis, provide the foundation for our developing proposed legislation, regulatory change, and administrative action, and inform advocacy work that ranges from providing congressional testimony to meeting with senior government officials.

WWP's policy and government affairs program was created with three goals in mind. First, become the most trusted source for credible research and policy analysis on veterans' issues of greatest pertinence to this generation of warriors. Second, fill the gaps in policy and practice so wounded warriors and their families have an entire cycle of care – from active duty to rehabilitation and for the rest of their lives. Finally, act as a catalyst for coordination among other veterans' and nonprofit organizations to strengthen the voice of veterans.

There are many veterans' service organizations, but until WWP was founded, none was uniquely focused on the newest generation of veterans. In addition to rehabilitation programs, these veterans need an active voice in Congress. WWP's policy and government affairs program was created to extend the organization's services to include advocacy on the federal and state legislative levels.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure quality healthcare for the full range of injuries is accessible throughout the transition from active duty service members to veteran status and for the duration of the warrior's life.
- Ensure wounded warriors have unfettered access to the range of benefits and compensation programs for which they are eligible.
- Ease the financial and emotional stresses of families faced with loved ones who have incurred life-altering disabilities.
- Identify and create new programs to meet the needs of this new generation of veterans.

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY

WWP's greatest accomplishment to date was the enactment of a law creating Traumatic Injury Protection for all active duty service members. This law created insurance that pays severely wounded servicemen and women up to \$100,000 upon their admission to a stateside military hospital. WWP was instrumental in the creation and drafting of the proposed legislation. Our lobbying efforts successfully resulted in the legislation being introduced and passed by Congress, and then signed into law by President George W. Bush, in under two months. And with momentum at the start of the second session of the 111th Congress toward reconciling Senate and House-passed caregiver-assistance bills, we are close to winning enactment of legislation that was modeled on a WWP-drafted proposal.

To whom this may concern:

My name is Sean DeBevoise, growing up experiencing the outdoors was the one entity that I can truly say contributed to making me the person I am today. The skills and knowledge gained growing up hunting and fishing accelerated my career in the military. After three combat deployments; Haiti and two times to Iraq. I was executing a raid to acquire a high value target in Iraq when I was severely injured. In May of 2006 I was shot four times (one penetrating my skull) and withstood shrapnel throughout my body. Needless to say my recovery included rigorous psychological and physical therapy. Over time and with help from friends and family I regained the strength and stamina to attempt enjoying the outdoors again. To me these events motivated me to enjoy life again. It provides both the time to sort my thoughts and excitement many people dream about. Personally I am a quiet person. But the more people I meet and stories I hear at camp the more astounding and most comical stories and events I've experienced in my life. In my life there is nothing that comes close to enjoying the outdoors whether in the woods with my father or with some recent friends. One thing I've learned growing up hunting is there is no such thing as a unsuccessful hunt.

Sincerely,

Reconaisance Scout Sniper Seargent Sean W. DeBevoise USMC Retired

Mr Chairman and Fellow Legislators -

By allowing the State Game & Fish Dept to issue (4) any deer tags for this project would create life-long memories for any service-member so deserving of this adventure.

I have a son who is currently serving his 3rd deployment - Guam, Kuwait, and presently in Afghanistan. The few years that he has enjoyed deer hunting between serving his country are experiences that he and I will never forget. To have a young adults love for the outdoors be changed dramatically or gone forever because of a disability received while defending our freedom would be devastating.

I personally find great pleasure in having a child or family member that has recently been introduced to the North Dakota outdoors bag that first rooster, net that whopper fish, or tag that trophy buck, more so than if I had harvested that trophy myself. To be a

part of that experience for any wounded warrior to cherish and to relive over and over would be quite gratifying. I can only imagine the joy it would bring, not to mention the therapeutic and emotional healing it would create for any young adult who has sacrificed so much for our country.

Lets show the rest of the nation why we choose to live this great North Dakota lifestyle.

Sen. Lyson / Dr
Pass / Schneider

Mr Donahue - ND Wildlife

Mr Hager -

Roger Rostvet - ND Game & Fish

In closing - since we have started with this idea of the wounded WP of ND - the public reaction and offers to help have been quite overwhelming.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1415 - ND VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL.

A veteran is an individual that has signed a blank check in the amount of and up to including his or her life for their country. Good morning, my name is John L. Jacobsen. I am the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the membership of the five Veterans Organizations in North Dakota:

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the veterans of the State of North Dakota. The committee **MUST** concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on HB 1415 is supported by the membership of the Veterans Coordinating Council.