

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND
SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on March 14, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused
Representative Pat Colloton- excused
Representative Dick Kelsey- excused
Representative Bill Light- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research
Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Wayne Bollig, KS Commission on Veterans' Affairs
Representative Connie Ruff
John Straham, Attorney
Larry Rebman, Attorney
Ralph Sorrel, Sgt., Leavenworth Police Dept.
George Webb, KS Commission on Veterans' Affairs
George Vega, Director of Personnel Services, State of KS
Chief Doring, Leavenworth Police Dept.
Daniel Miller, Army Veteran, Lansing
Commissioner Brian Grittman, Leavenworth City Commission
Glenn Griffeth

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Proehl for approval of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on March 13, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2562 - Veterans Preference in employment.**

Chairman Myers recognized Wayne Bollig who gave an overview of how other states utilize Veterans Preference in hiring. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized the following six proponents who gave testimony:

Representative Ruff stated that her goal was "to change the state statute in order for veterans preference to consistently apply to all public sector employment, i.e., state, cities and counties." (Attachment 2)

John Straham gave testimony mainly in support of two sections; one mandating that information on the preference be provided to the veteran and one regarding the advantage of government in regards to attorney fees. (Attachment 3)

Larry Rebman in his testimony suggested waiting until present litigations and appeals were completed before making changes or amendments to the law. (Attachment 4)

Ralph Sorrell gave testimony relating to his personal experience with a job interview. (Attachment 5)

George Webb in his testimony recommended the inclusion of the Coast Guard in the definition of Veteran. He also recommended rewording the service of the veteran rather than giving a list of wars. Thirdly he recommended defining "preferred." (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on March 14, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

George Vega gave testimony showing the results of interviews at the current time in relation to those before 1995. ([Attachment 7](#))

Chairman Myers pointed out to the Committee that there was one proponent who had turned in a written only testimony, Theodore Scott Sutton. In his testimony he shared his personal experiences as a Veteran. ([Attachment 8](#))

Chairman Myers recognized the following four opponents for testimony:
Chief Doring sees the bill as “unfair, confusing, and impractical”, and expressed concerns about “career enhancing benefits” to veterans not given to other employees. ([Attachment 9](#))

Daniel Miller spoke to “getting your foot in the door” and felt that the veterans preference should help veterans with initial hiring but that once they had the position all internal advancements should be based on performance on the job. ([Attachment 10](#))

Commissioner Brian Grittmann gave testimony which also supported the idea that once hired it should be up to the veteran to prove themselves. He also felt the 10-percent preference was confusing. ([Attachment 11](#))

Glenn Griffeth testified as a veteran that this bill would remove veterans preference to appointments in state government. ([Attachment 12](#))

Chairman Myers closed the hearings regarding **HB 2562** and assigned a Sub-Committee to review the bill. He assigned the following to the Sub-Committee:

Representative Mario Goico to Chair
Representative Candy Ruff
Representative Raj Goyle
Representative Richard Proehl
Representative Barbara Craft

Chairman Myers stated the first meeting of the Sub-Committee would be March 15 at 1:30 in room 241-N.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 3:25.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2007.