

Approved: 02/04/08
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 PM on January 31, 2008 in Room 784 of the Docking Building.

All members were present except

Bob Bethell - excused
Dan Johnson - excused
Eber Phelps - excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Revisor of Statutes Office
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Barbara Lewerenz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kenneth Stodgell, VFW
Ralph Snyder, Legislative Chairman, American Legion
George Webb, KCVA Director
Colonel Michael Neer, US Army (Retired), Commissioner KCVA (written testimony only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

The chairman announced that a new sound system for the Meeting Room 784 has been ordered.

The chairman called for bill introduction: There were none.

HB 2663 - An Act relating to veterans

Representative Ruff gave an overview of the evolution of the claims program for veterans and the policy of the intake function and use of power-of-attorney relating to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and service organizations including the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (See Attachment #1)

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

Kenneth Stodgell, VFW, appeared in support of **HB 2663**. He stated the VFW is satisfied with the partnership. (See Attachment #2)

Ralph Snyder, American Legion, appeared in support of **HB 2663**. He expressed appreciation for Rep. Ruff and her support of the issues. (See Attachment #3)

George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, appeared in opposition of **HB 2663** indicating that the KCVA would be disadvantaged in processing claims for veterans by this bill. (See Attachment #4)

Colonel Michael Neer, US army (Retired), Commissioner Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, submitted written testimony opposing **HB 2663**. (See Attachment #5)

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.

The next meeting will be February 4, 2008.

