

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 January 24, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused
Representative Bill Light- excused
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bill Chornyak, Deputy Director, Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Ian Staples, University of Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Kelsey, seconded by Representative Craft for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on January 22, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions and recognized Ian Staples, student at the University of Kansas. He presented a bill to create the Kansas Returning Heroes Education Act which would establish an education assistance program for payment, tuition and fees charged for enrollment in Kansas educational institutions. This would include vocational, vocational technical, community colleges, and State institutions. This would include veterans honorably discharged after 9/11/01 without more than 10 years of active duty.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Goico that the above be accepted and introduced as a Committee bill.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Ruff who presented a bill introduction which would update the current statute of the Commission working with Persian Gulf Veterans.

Representative Ruff moved, seconded by Representative Craft that the above be accepted and introduced as a Committee bill.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2068 - Adjutant General, Security Officers.**

Chairman Myers recognized Bill Chornyak who spoke as a proponent for the bill. (Attachment 1) He pointed out a number of advantages he sees with this bill which would allow the Adjutant General to designate security officers as law enforcement officers to carry out their responsibilities while on duty for the Kansas National Guard.

Two pieces of written testimony only were received on this bill with some concerns shared. The first is from Steven Culp, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards & Training (Attachment 2) and the next is from Ed Pavey, Director of the KU Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on January 24, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HB 2068** stating that it would be worked at the next Committee meeting.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 2:10.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 25.