

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 29, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Representative Eber Phelps- 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:  
General Tod Bunting, The Adjutant General of Kansas  
George Webb, Director of Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs

Others attending:  
See attached list.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Proehl for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on January 24, 2007 and January 25, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions of which there were none.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Goico who moved to reconsider **HB 2067 - KS Commission on Veterans - Criminal History Checks of Employees**, seconded by Representative Ruff.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers recognized Revisor, Art Griggs to summarize the amendments for **HB 2067**.

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Ruff to amend **HB 2067**.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Ruff that **HB 2067** be passed favorably as amended.

Motion carried. 14 Yea 0 Nay

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2152 - Commission on emergency planning and response; new members**.

Chairman Myers requested Revisor, Art Griggs to summarize the bill. The fiscal estimate is \$10, 240.

Chairman Myers recognized General Tod Bunting who testified as a proponent for the bill. (Attachment 1) He talked about the expansion of membership and what the duties would include with the main concern being the safety of Kansans.

Chairman Myers noted two written testimonies in favor of the bill, the first being from Pat Eakes with the KS Commission on Disability Concerns (Attachment 2) and the next from the Department of Agriculture (Attachment 3).

Chairman Myers closed the hearings on **HB 2152**.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on January 29, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers announced the working of **HB 2152**.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Palmer to pass **HB 2152** out of Committee favorably for placement on the Consent Calendar.

Motion carried. 15 Yea 0 Nay

Chairman Myers recognized George Webb for a briefing on the mission and structure of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. (Attachment 4) This covered the mission and structure, demographics, Veteran Services Program, State Approving Agency, State Veterans' Cemetery Program, Soldiers' Home and Veterans' Home, Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Initiative and an overview of benefits. Mr. Webb stated that generally a Veteran is defined as someone who has served on active duty and has left active service with an honorable discharge or some definitions say anything but a dishonorable discharge.

Representative Bethel requested follow up numbers for this Committee as well as the Civil Service Budget Committee regarding the Kansas Veterans' Home in Winfield. He wondered if they were funded appropriately what the numbers of people served there would look like?

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 2:55.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2007.