

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2008 in Room 784 of the Docking Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused

Representative Marti Crow- 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: None

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Kelsey, seconded by Representative Ruff for approval of the Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held February 4, 2008. Motion Carried.

Chairman Myers announced that February 13 is the last day for bill introductions by members. The last day for nonexempt committee bill introductions is February 15. There were none.

Hearings will be held the week of February 25 on **HB 2852 - Placing a security freeze on consumer reports for veterans and active duty service personnel**. The hearing date and date the hearing will be worked will be announced in the Agenda for the week of February 25 through February 29.

The Chairman recognized Rep. Ruff, who gave an overview of an amendment to **HB 2663 - Relating to veterans**. The amendment clarifies that no veterans' service representative of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs shall take a power of attorney in the name of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit any such veterans' service representative from assisting any veteran with any claim in which a power of attorney is not required.

Rep. Ruff explained that veterans' service organizations are able to serve as power of attorney for veterans in claims situations. However, since the KCVA represents the state of Kansas, the state could be sued if the KCVA was acting as power of attorney and this amendment would limit the liability of the state.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Goico to amend **HB 2663** per balloon by modifying page 1, line 9 by striking "K.S.A.73-1211" and line 10 of page 1 by striking "sections" and inserting "section"; striking lines 35 through 39 on page 2; and striking lines 15 through 29, modifying line 30 on page 3 by striking "K.S.A. 73-1211" and striking "are" and inserting "is"and by renumbering the remaining sections accordingly. Motion Carried  
(Attachment 1)

Discussion followed: Rep. Ruff explained that out of 30,000 claims filed for veterans only four or five have been represented by the KCVA with power of attorney in the name of the state of Kansas. Rep. Goico clarified that the federal government had suggested that states should not be acting as power of attorney.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Rep. Lukert to pass **HB 2663** favorably as amended and move it to the floor. Motion Carried.

Chairman Myers appointed Rep. Ruff to carry the bill on the House Floor.

Chairmen Myers thanked the subcommittee members for their willingness to serve.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Veterans Military and Homeland Security Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2008 in Room 784 of the Docking Building.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.