

STATE OF KANSAS
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TIMOTHY H. JOHNSON
38TH DISTRICT

TO: House Veterans & Military Committee

DATE: February 12, 2024

RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2759

Dear Chairman Ellis and Committee Members

Provisions of this bill will conform Kansas statutory language defining veteran and service-connected disabled veteran to federal statutory language in 38 US Code § 101 et seq. The bill also cites both federal disability determination statutes: 10 US Code Chapter 61 and 38 US Code Chapter 11.

Section 1 refers to disabled veterans license plates without the wheelchair symbol (aka international symbol of access.) A provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). A provision conforms the definition of service-connected veteran to 38 US Code § 101(16). A provision recognizes both federal disability determination statutes relevant to active service members of the armed forces and veterans. (page 1)

Section 2 refers to driver's license with VETERAN designation. A provision updates the discharge documents acceptable for documentation to apply under this statute to include the NGB Form 22. A provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). (pages 1-3)

Section 3 refers to non-driver state identification cards with VETERAN designation. A provision updates the discharge documents acceptable for documentation to apply under this statute to include the NGB Form 22. A provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). (pages 3-7)

Section 4 refers to hunting and fishing licenses. Provision updates the definition of service-connected disabled veteran to conform to federal statutory language in 38 US Code § 101(2) and 38 US Code § 101(16)(pages 7-8)

Section 5 refers to and grants in-residence tuition rate at public universities for military family members and veterans. Provisions update the definition of veteran and adds the space force to the definition of armed forces. (pages 8-9)

Section 6 refers to protected classes of consumers. Provisions update definitions of "member of the armed forces" and "veteran" to conform to federal statutory language. (pages 9-10)

Section 7 refers to preference in Kansas civil service employment. A provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). A provision conforms the definition of service-connected veteran to 38 US Code § 101(16). A provision grants preference to the spouse of a 100% (permanent and total) rated service-connected veteran in state employment. A provision grants preference to the surviving spouse of a veteran killed in the line of duty during active service in state employment. A provision recognizes both federal disability determination statutes relevant to active service members of the armed forces and veterans. A provision updates the discharge documents acceptable for documentation to apply for employment under this statute to include the NGB Form 22. (pages 10-13)

Section 8 refers to state agency award of contracts and purchases. Provisions define preference granted to disabled veteran business. Provisions recognize both federal disability determination statutes relevant to active service members of the armed forces and veterans. (pages 13-14)

Section 9 refers to the Persian Gulf War veterans health initiative. Provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). (pages 14-15)

Section 10 refers to award of the Vietnam war era medallion, medal and certificate. Provision conforms the definition of veteran to 38 US Code § 101(2). (Page 15)

Section 11 refers to state agency award of contracts and purchases. Provisions define preference granted to disabled veteran business. Provisions recognize both federal disability determination statutes relevant to active service members of the armed forces and veterans. (pages 15-20)

Section 12 refers to the Homestead Property Tax Refund Act and recognizes both federal disability determination statutes relevant to active service members of the armed forces and veterans. A provision conforms Kansas language to federal language for surviving spouse of a deceased member of the armed forces. A provision clarifies that disability compensation for service-connected veterans is not income included in Kansas Income Tax. (pages 20-23)

Section 13 cites repealed provisions if HB 2759 becomes law (p. 23) Section 14 sets the effective date as publication in the statute book if HB 2759 becomes law (page 23)

Support for this bill comes from a unified group of military and veterans organization across the State of Kansas and provides for greater ease in addressing the needs of veterans. I would ask for your support on this important veteran legislation

Rep. Timothy H. Johnson

38th District