

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carol E. Beggs at 3:35 p.m. on February 19, 2001 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
 Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Lee Tafanelli
 Representative Kenny Wilk
 Mr. Ken Strafer - Washington, D.C.
 Mr. Bill Newby
 Lieutenant General Robert Arter
 Adjutant General, Greg Gardner
 Williams Richards, Kansas Council of Chapters
 Colonel Malen E. Dowse
 Jean Barbee, TIAK

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

HCR 5011 Memorializing Congress to provide health care for retired military personnel.

Representative Tafanelli addressed the committee as a proponent of the resolution. He stated this resolution is the first step in fulfilling our responsibility and our obligation to the retired military men and women who have served our great state and nation so honorably. Through Federal Regulatory changes in entitlements for military health care benefits and the downsizing of the military during the 90's at its installations, the veterans have lost significant portions of their health care support systems. He feels that we must stand up for what is right and defend those individuals that spent a career defending us.

(Attachment 1)

Addressing the committee as a proponent of **HCR 5011** was Representative Kenny Wilk who stated that he is pleased that there is a hearing today and he wished to lend his strong support. He wished to thank Mr. Newby who has worked tirelessly across the country and deserves a lot of credit. He feels that it is somewhat sad that we even have to have this resolution. (No written testimony)

Mr. Ken Strafer of Washington, D.C., Senior Advisor, Veterans Affairs, appeared before the committee as a proponent. He states that the mission that was entrusted to our veterans was to safeguard the safety of our nation. Now we are being sought for the important mission to restore and safeguard the healthcare and other benefit entitlements that have eroded away from our veterans. (Attachment 2)

The next proponent, Mr. Bill Newby, represents the Class Act Law Suit. The court found there is indeed a broken promise between the United States Government and thousands military retirees. This was handed down February 9. The retired World War II, Korean Veterans are asking that they be given the very things that the courts have found they are entitled to. (No written testimony)

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MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE, Room 522-S Statehouse, at 335 p.m. on February
19, 2001
CONTINUATION

Lieutenant General Robert Arter was the next proponent for **HCR 5011**. It was General Arter's opinion that with this resolution, we have a vehicle to correct what needs to be corrected and a vehicle of excellent teaching, an education vehicle in this business. (No written testimony)

Next to address the committee as a proponent for this resolution was Adjutant General, Greg Gardner. He commended the Representatives and all involved for supporting this resolution insuring our retired military personnel and their families of having medical benefits. (Attachment 3)

Appearing before the committee in support of **HCR 5011**, was William E. Richards, Sr., retired Lieutenant Colonel United States Army. Colonel Richards appeared on behalf of Kansas military retirees to urge passage of the resolution. (Attachment 4)

The last conferee to appear in support of this resolution was Retired Colonel Malen E. Dowse on behalf of the National Guard Association of Kansas stating that this is certainly a correct and timely step in assuring lasting health care for our retired military members. (Attachment 5)

The conferees stood for questions.

Chairman Beggs entertained a motion.

Representative Osborne made a motion to pass HCR 5011 favorably out of committee. This was seconded by Representative Levinson. Motion passed favorably with one abstention.

HB 2098 Re-referred to Tourism on general orders - Commercial guide services; permits requirements; reports of dispositions of prosecutions.

Chairman Beggs asked for a motion to remove **HB 2098** from the table with the following amendment made by Wildlife and Parks (*Page 7, Line 4 Providing guide services on land not owned or leased by the individual providing the services shall not by itself constitute evidence that the services are provided on a commercial basis*).

Representative McClure made a motion to take the bill off the table. Representative Osborne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to remove the bill from the table.

Representative Jerry Aday made a motion to pass the bill as amended.. This motion was seconded by Representative Levinson. The motion passed favorably.

Representative Ethel Peterson made a motion to move the bill out of committee as approved and as amended. This was seconded by Representative Osborne. Motion passed favorably.

HB 2414 Kansas tourism advertising fund

Chairman Beggs asked if there was anyone who needed additional discussion on **HB 2414**. Being no discussion, Chairman Beggs asked for a motion on the bill.

Representative Loganbill made a motion to pass the bill out favorably. Representative Osborne seconded the motion.

The advisor explained that there is an amendment to the bill. *At the end of line 36, the word secretary is to be changed to director.*

Representative Campbell made a substitute motion to pass the bill out favorably with the amendment. This was seconded by Representative Loganbill. The motion passed favorably.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, Room 522-S Statehouse, at 3:35 p.m. on
February 19, 2001
CONTINUATION

Representative Margaret Long made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 12 as read. This was seconded by Representative Ballou. Motion passed and the minutes were adopted as read.

Representative Ethel Peterson made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 14 as read. This was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion passed and the minutes of February 14 were adopted as read.

Chairman Beggs made the announcement that there would be no more Tourism meetings until after turn around.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.