

The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs
Meeting Minutes - December 8, 2010

Members present: Representatives Bailey, Hurst, O'Brien, Klippert, Hope
Senators Hobbs, Roach, Shin, Carrell

Representative Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. The minutes from the May 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

Mr. Greg Lynch, Chair of the Interstate Compact State Council on Education of Military Children briefed the committee on the Council's progress.

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/JCVMA/Documents/2010-12-08/InterstateCompactPresentation.pdf>

Col. (retired) Ron Weaver, Deputy Director of the Washington Youth Academy and Mr. Larry Pierce, Deputy Director of the Washington Youth Academy updated the committee on the Washington National Guard Enhanced Employment Program, the Washington Youth Academy, and initiatives for the Washington Army and Air National Guard.

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Deputy Director, Department of Veterans' Affairs, briefed the committee on the master planning on the Washington Soldiers Home.

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/JCVMA/Documents/2010-12-08/DVASoldiersHomes.pdf>

Mr. Dennis Primoli, Chairman of the Veterans' Legislative Coalition (VLC), reported that the VLC will monitor and support the following legislative issues for the 2011 session:

- Find ways to fund veteran programs without using general funds, i.e., scratch lottery tickets;
- Make the voting for overseas veterans, guard, and reserve members easier;
- Relief of certain taxes for disabled veterans;
- Change the definition of veteran for purposes of county relief funds;
- State contracts with businesses owned by veterans with disabilities;
- Adjust veterans scoring criteria;
- Improve veterans' access to services; and
- Provide tuition waivers for eligible veterans

Mr. Primoli invited the committee to the VLC reception on Friday, January 14, 2011, in the Columbia Room, Capitol Building.

The Committee unanimously voted to recommend the following bills to the legislature:

- Disposition of remains of persons who died while serving on active duty (Hobbs)

- Military and overseas voters (Hobbs, Hurst)
- Facilitating voting for service and overseas voters (Secretary of State request legislation)
- Access to K-12 campuses for occupational or educational information (Hobbs)
- Veterans lay-off and re-employment rights (Kelley)
- Definition of “military service” and “service member” (Kelley)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.