



Washington State Legislature

466 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466
(360) 786-7404

Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

Executive Committee:
Representative Barbara Bailey
Senator Steve Conway
Representative Tina Orwall
Senator Pam Roach

Joint Committee for Veterans' and Military Affairs

November 30, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Orwall, Bailey, Hobbs, Kilmer, Carrell, Becker, McCune, Shin, Finn, Roach, Swecker, Klippert, Conway

Members absent: Hudgins, Hope, Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM by co-chair Orwall.

The minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting were approved.

The following bills were considered by the Committee for recommendation to the Legislature:

- Extending the age for service in the Washington State Guard (Dammeier)
- Recognizing distinguished military service through the creation of certain military service award special license plates (Zeiger)
- Expedited professional licensing for military spouses (Kilmer)
- Establishing National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (Ormsby)
- Allowing for a veteran designation on driver's licenses and identicards (McCune)
- Providing a sales and use tax exemption for mobility enhancing equipment used by disabled veterans in vehicle adaptations (McCune)
- Access to state recreation lands by disabled veterans (Bailey)
- Updating veterans' preference (Carrell)
- Requiring certain mental health professionals to complete continuing education in suicide prevention (Orwall)

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend all of these bills to the Legislature.

The Veterans Legislative Coalition reported on the bills they will support and monitor during the next legislative session. The bills the Coalition will support include the following:

HB 1073/SB 5190	Disposition of remains
HB 1221	Rights of higher education students involved in the military
HJM 4006/SJM 8003	I-5 Purple Heart Trail
SB 5861	Veteran scoring criteria status
SHB 1615/SSB 5627	Service member civil relief

The bills the Coalition will monitor include the following:

EHB 1050	Children with military parents
HB 1863/SB 5608	Assistance for student veterans at institutions of higher education
HB 1514	<i>In God We Trust</i> license plates
SB 5063	Special license plates for motorcycles
HB 1479	Veterans programs and benefits
SHB 1470/SB 5189	Equal Access to K-12 campuses
HB 1605	Requiring recipients of public funds for housing to provide an application preference for qualified disabled veterans
HB 1786	Providing additional property tax levy flexibility in order to preserve and enhance the veterans and human services safety net
SB 5567	Property tax levy lid limits

Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Adjutant General and Tom Riggs, Director, Washington National Guard Joint Services Support Center briefed the committee on the Washington National Guard's suicide prevention program. (see <http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/JCVMA/Documents/2011-11-30/SuicidePreventionProgram.pdf>)

John Lee, Director and Gary Condurra, Department of Veterans' Affairs, briefed the committee on the future of the Orting Soldiers Home. (see <http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/JCVMA/Documents/2011-11-30/VeteransHomes.pdf>)

Jim Kiefert, Chairman of the Washington State Prostate Cancer Task Force; Board member for the Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition; and Chairman of the UW patient advocacy committee for the prostate cancer SPORE, briefed the committee on a new drug, Provenge, for the treatment of prostate cancer. Currently, the Veterans' Administration does not cover the use of Provenge, even though it has been approved by the Federal Drug Administration. Rep. Bailey announced that she will send a letter to Washington's Congressional delegation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM.

The meeting can be viewed on TVW:

http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2011110090