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**  
  *In God We Trust* 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


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.