

Introduced by

Senator Dever

Representative Fehr

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to county veterans' service officers.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-14-18. County veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.**

7 The board of county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota shall
8 appoint, employ, and pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a county
9 veterans' service officer. The veterans' affairs commissioner may work directly with county
10 veterans' service officers. An individual may serve as a county veterans' service officer in more
11 than one county. The appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of
12 veterans' affairs, and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section
13 37-19.1-02. ~~By August 1, 2011, all~~ A county veterans' service officer must be accredited
14 by the national association of county veterans' service officers and maintain accreditation with
15 an organization approved by the United States department of veterans' affairs, beginning within
16 twelve months of the accreditation requirement applying to a county veterans' service officer. It
17 is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to become acquainted with the laws, both state
18 and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning servicemen and servicewomen to assist such
19 returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and establishment of such
20 claims, privileges, and rights as they have. It also is the duty of the county veterans' service
21 officer to actively cooperate with and to coordinate the activities of the state and federal
22 agencies within the county which the officer serves to facilitate their operation and ensure
23 promptness in the solution of the problems concerned with the reestablishment of returning
24 servicemen and servicewomen in civilian pursuits. A county veterans' service officer may not

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- 1 serve as a conservator for an individual who is receiving benefits or services from the
- 2 department of veterans' affairs or the United States department of veterans' affairs, except if the
- 3 individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the officer.