

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2229

2001 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2229

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2229

Senate Appropriations Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 23, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape #2	x		26.4 - 44.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Jonnie Pietsch</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Nething opened the hearing on SB2229.

Senator Larry Robinson, State Senator from District 24, Barnes County, testified in support of SB2229 (a copy of his written testimony is attached).

John L. Jacobsen, representing the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veteran's Coordinating Council, testified in support of SB2229 (a copy of his written testimony is attached).

Senator Bowman: Have you looked into the possibility of adding \$5-10 on the annual legion/VFW unit's dues -- the added amount to be put into the cemetery endowment fund? I for one would be proud to pay the additional sum.

John L. Jacobsen: To the best of my knowledge that has not been tried. We are governed by federal statute.

Senator Bowman: This would be over and above your regular dues that are federally governed.

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Senate Appropriations Committee

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John L. Jacobsen: It is a possibility -- will take it back to the organization.

Gary Helgeson, Bismarck; appeared on behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation in support of SB2229 (a copy of his written testimony is attached).

Senator Nething: What is the total dollar amount the foundation needs?

Gary Helgeson: No number available; there is a \$40-45 thousand investment annually (salary etc.). My personal estimate would be \$3 million.

John W. Dwyer, registered lobbyist (#075), National Guard Association of North Dakota, Inc., testified, on behalf of the National Guard Association of North Dakota, Inc. in support of SB2229.

Jim Coats, veteran, testified in support of SB2229. He indicated that the cemetery is fast approaching the 1500 interment mark; last week there were 6 burials and 3 scheduled for tomorrow. With support such as this bill, the facility can stay a class a cemetery - one that anyone can be proud to visit/drive by.

Senator Andrist: Any veteran that wishes can be buried there? Is there an assessment on a voluntary or required sum?

Jim Coats: Yes. No demand on the cemetery's part for an assessment. However, there is always some dollar contribution by family/friends.

No additional testimony, for or against SB2229. Hearing closed by Senator Nething.

Subcommittee assignment: Senator Andrist, Chair

Senator Thane and Senator Tomac

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Senate Appropriations Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB2229
Hearing Date January 23, 2001

February 13, 2001 Full Committee Action (Tape #3, Side A, Meter No. 17.8-29.4)

Senator Nething reopened the hearing on SB2229.

Senator Andrist, Chair of the Veterans' Subcommittee, presented amendments #10506.0101. He explained the purpose of same.

Senator Andrist moved the amendments be adopted; Senator Solberg seconded. Adopted by verbal vote.

Discussion on bill.

Senator Andrist moved a DO PASS AS AMENDED; Senator Solberg seconded it. Roll Call

Votes: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 absent and not voting.

Senator Andrist accepted the floor assignment.

Date: 2-13-01

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2229

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 1050610101

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Sen Andrist Seconded By Sen Solberg

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Dave Nething, Chairman	✓				
Ken Solberg, Vice-Chairman	✓				
Randy A. Schobinger	✓				
Elroy N. Lindaas	✓				
Harvey Tallackson	✓				
Larry J. Robinson	✓				
Steven W. Tomac	✓				
Joel C. Heitkamp	✓				
Tony Grindberg	✓				
Russell T. Thane	✓				
Ed Kringstad	✓				
Ray Holmberg	✓				
Bill Bowman	✓				
John M. Andrist	✓				

Total Yes 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Andrist

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2229: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Nething, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2229 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 4, after "**APPROPRIATION**" insert "- **MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED**"

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$247,500" with "\$123,750"

Page 1, line 7, after the period insert "The funding may be used only if matching funds of \$123,750 are received from federal, public, private, or other sources."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment changes the amount of the appropriation from the general fund from \$247,500 to \$123,750 and adds language allowing for the funds to be used only if \$123,750 in matching funds are received.

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2001 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2229

Is
2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **SB2229**

House Appropriations Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date **March 12, 2001**

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
I	x		1670 - 6216
I		X	0 - 911
Committee Clerk Signature <i>L. Danke</i>			

Minutes:

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SB2229.

Rep. Timm: Opened the hearing on SB2229.

Senator Robinson: I appear before you today as sponsor of SB2229, this bill as amended will provide a general fund appropriation in the amount of \$123,750 for the Office of the Adjutant General for the purpose of operating the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery for the upcoming biennium. A Veteran's Cemetery was enacted into law in March of 1989 the first burial took place on July 7, 1992 and since that time a total of 1482 individuals have been buried in this facility. In the year 2000 a total of 247 burials took place and an average of slightly more than 20 each month, the number of burials will increase each year for the next several years due to the number and the age of our World War II veteran's. Due to the fact that there are fewer Korean, Vietnam and Gulf War veteran's the numbers could slow down in the future, and I might add that most of you are aware that one of our former colleagues Rep. John Schneider will be buried in

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this facility tomorrow. There are a total of 20,000 burial plots in the current development site and of this number it is estimated that approximately 65% of these plots will be tiered meaning that at least two burials will be made in each grave, based on preliminary estimates it will be 140 years before the current site will be filled up. There is available an additional 40 acres for expansion of the current site. When the cemetery was first started the belief at that time was that a large part if not all of the funding would come from the gaming to operate the facility and build up a trust fund to allow for the continued and perpetual care of this facility. We all know what has happened to charitable gaming in North Dakota over the last number of years, since 1991 donations and income in excess of \$1.2 million in revenue has been generated to fund the operations of the cemetery, these dollars have come from donations, interest earnings from the veteran's post war trust fund and the sale of veteran's cemetery license plates. Prior to 2000 the cemetery was not allowed the \$150 burial allowance allowed for burying veteran's the congressional delegation in Washington was able to have a provision passed into law allowing for the cemetery to begin receiving these funds as of this past November. The Black Hills cemetery in South Dakota is approximately the same size as our cemetery, they have 8 full time year round employees, we have 3 full time employees. Minnesota has just funded with general fund dollars a veteran's cemetery in Little Falls and in addition the veteran's cemeteries in Wisconsin are all funded with general funds dollars, our veteran's cemetery is on of the premier veteran's cemetery's in the nation. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee it is time for us to step to the plate and assist with the funding of the operation of this facility with general fund dollars. I urge your favorable consideration of SB2229, I would certainly attempt to answer any questions if there are questions from the committee and there are a number of folks from the

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veteran's organizations including the former Adjutant General, General MacDonald who is with us today to further explain the bill and the rationale behind the bill and answer further questions.

Rep. Delzer: What's the cost on the veteran's license plates?

Sen. Robinson: I am going to defer that question, I have that in my file upstairs and I did not bring that with me and I apologize, but the folks that are with me could get into that.

Rep. Delzer: Did you talk to the folks about raising that fee to come up with more money?

Sen. Robinson: We talked about a number of possibilities, and if you look at the original bill prior to the amendment on the senate side. The feeling was that we actually need twice this amount of money, twice this amount of money to allow that fund to grow, so at some point from 6 to 8 years we are in a situation where we can reduce it if not eliminate the general fund appropriation, the fund is not able to grow because we are taking money from it and that's the reason for the appropriation. The folks here today can speak to a number of discussions that have taken place to address the issue of funding, and I think the bottom line is the price that our veteran's have paid and the good work they have done in protecting and securing the democracy that we enjoy, we feel this is a small price to pay, all of us should be stepping up to the plate in honor and recognition of our fallen veteran's.

Rep. Delzer: Did you ask about doubling the fee and what did they say?

Sen. Robinson: We did not explore that option specifically and I apologize, I didn't mean to evade the question, we talked about a host of things and the veteran's have looked at a host of opportunities. That particular issue wasn't focused on and in light of the feeling on the part of many of us that is a responsibility that should qualify for a very small appropriation from the general fund.

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Rep. Delzer: If I may make a statement, I served on the "91" veteran's affairs committee and I know one of the major selling points of this was that it would never take general fund money and things change but I still believe that people's word should be people's word and I guess I have been convinced yet that I can support this.

Sen. Robinson: This is certainly not the first entity and nor will it be the last that has found themselves in a situation where we are back to the state and we can go on down that road and I don't think that's a wise thing for us to do at this point in time. Partly due to legislative action over the years we have curtailed the gaming activity with the taxation on that industry to the point where the dollars aren't there, we also have an impact with the casinos and a whole lot of things have changed, one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment that our veteran's made to this country and in my opinion this is a very small commitment on our part to honor and recognize those veteran's in a beautiful facility and if you haven't been out there is certainly worth the trip.

Rep. Timm: I see that the senate cut the appropriation in half, is that right?

Sen. Robinson: Out of concern for a very tight budget we reduced it by 50%.

Rep. Martinson: Basically you are saying that it would take about \$247,000, and I think one of the problems I have with the requirement for the matching funds is you raise that money that doesn't get put into the trust and then were back in two years with the same problem. I think that we should just face up to the fact that we have a beautiful cemetery out there, and some may not like it but were going to have to put general fund money into it, but the fact of the matter is we will, its a real honor to the folks that over there, and I have a nephew that's there and I just think we should just face up to the fact and put some money into and even a little extra, but it looks to me, there was a little comment before my question, and it doesn't look like your investment

