

2019 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1178

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee - Human Resources Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB1178
1/30/2019
31769

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Caitlin Fleck

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Overview hearing.

Minutes:

A

Opened hearing, read name and number of bill.

Jim Nelson, Legislative Director for the ND Veterans Legislative Council: (see attachment A)

(4.41) Chairman Jon O. Nelson: We've had this issue before us in the past, and last time it was suggested that we didn't need to fund this program. The Bismarck area is the primary user of the state funds, while other areas have funded this privately. Why?

Mr. Nelson: The meal that we provide in Bismarck here is much larger, we have about 20-30 vendors that come to our events. I can't address as to why Bismarck spends more money.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: I don't mean to put you on the spot, but it seems odd that the other areas don't need the money. When you show us the homeless attendees, and we are down to 1, that isn't a true show of who and how many come to the events? Do you have a roster of who comes to the events?

Mr. Nelson: We do have a record of who come because we have to specify the clientele of who we are serving. There is a good number of people who come through. I could get you that information as to how many actually attend.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: I would be interested to see the actual number of people who attend. How is the attendance?

Mr. Nelson: There is decline in the overall attendance.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: In Bismarck, do you schedule these each year?

Mr. Nelson: Yes. I know there was some discussion a year ago if we should go to every other year, and I'm not sure where that discussion stands.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: That is a decision that is better made locally.

Mr. Nelson: That would be with the stand down committee.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: Is that made up of veterans from different areas?

Mr. Nelson: Yes.

NO FURTHER TESTIMONY OR QUESTIONS.
MEETING CLOSED.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee - Human Resources Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB1178
1/30/2019
31812

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Caitlin Fleck

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Voting on bill.

Minutes:

Opened hearing.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: This is in the budget, and in the green sheets.

Representative Bert Anderson: Do not pass.

Representative Richard G. Holman: Seconded.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion passed.

Floor assignment is **Representative Bert Anderson**.

Representative Lisa Meier: We were visiting about the cost for the stand downs in the Bismarck area, and there are some private funds that go into there too.

Chairman Jon O. Nelson: Most of the other stand downs in the rest of the state are funded by private funds. It seemed like in the Fargo area they get some of the private groups that help to organize the stand downs very seldom come in and ask for money here. One of the answers is that Bismarck does more stand downs than any other area. The number in attendance is going down though. The Native American population is greatly part of the military population, and they don't have any stand down events. That is for the service organizations to decide. We didn't fund the stand down events in the last biennium, because they said that they didn't need the funding.

Meeting concluded.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1178
1/31/2019
31886

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Risa Bergquist

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

The department of veterans' affairs for stand down events.

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer: Call the meeting to order for HB 1178

Representative Anderson: It is 10 thousand dollars of funding for Stand Down events. It wasn't in the budget and at this time we would recommend a 6-0 Do Not pass.

Chairman Delzer: We had quite a bit of money in their years ago and it got to the point that they weren't using it. Is Bismarck still planning on having these events?

Representative B. Anderson: Not every year, they have them as they feel needed.

Representative Meier: I understood that they do them every year.

Representative J. Nelson: Currently they are doing them every year but they are considering other options, last biennium we didn't fund the Stand Downs and that was the recommendation of the commissioner. They have been used in other communities, the Bismarck area uses most of the state money.

Representative Nathe: What is the Stand Down again?

Chairman Delzer: It's when veterans have a chance to come in and talk to different people about the different programs that are out there for them.

Representative J. Nelson: For homeless veterans they provide a meal, it can be some health care, a haircut and they offer all the programs out there for veterans.

Representative B. Anderson: I'll make a motion for a **Do not pass**

Representative Kreidt: Second

Chairman Delzer: Any further discussion? Roll call vote will be taken.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 19 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Motion Carries

Representative B. Anderson will carry that bill

Chairman Delzer closes the hearing on HB 1178

Date: 11/30/2019
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1178**

House Appropriations - Human Resources Division Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Anderson Seconded By Rep. Holman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jon O. Nelson	X		Rep. Richard G. Holman	X	
Vice Chairman Gary Kreidt	X				
Representative Bert Anderson	X				
Representative Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Randy A. Schobinger	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Anderson

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

Date: 1/31/2019
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1178**

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Representative B. Anderson Seconded By Representative Kreidt

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X				
Representative Kempenich	A				
Representative Anderson	X		Representative Schobinger	X	
Representative Beadle	X		Representative Vigesaa	X	
Representative Bellew	A				
Representative Brandenburg	X				
Representative Howe	X		Representative Boe	X	
Representative Kreidt	X		Representative Holman	X	
Representative Martinson	X		Representative Mock	X	
Representative Meier	X				
Representative Monson	X				
Representative Nathe	X				
Representative J. Nelson	X				
Representative Sanford	X				
Representative Schatz	X				
Representative Schmidt	X				

Total (Yes) 19 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Representative B. Anderson

Motion Carries

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1178: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (19 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1178 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

HB 1178

The most frequently asked question is "What is a Stand down?" The term Stand down is actually a military term. Troops in combat need time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative safety and security. At these base camps weary troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, have warm meals, receive medical and dental care, receive mail, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a relaxed and safe environment.

Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots community-based intervention program designed to help the estimated 107,000 homeless veterans in the United States who on any given night "combat" life on the streets. Homeless veterans are brought together and provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their causes of homelessness and assisting in the rebuilding of their lives.

The Concept of Stand Down originated in the 80's by two Vietnam Veterans and the first one was held in 1989 at San Diego.

What happens at a stand down? Homeless veterans are provided with a broad range of necessities including a warm meal, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral, haircuts, spiritual help, and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie.

Why us this unique approach? Many homeless veterans have suffered years of chronic or recurring readjustment issues since leaving the service. Probably the biggest issues are PTSD, TBI and drug alcohol addiction. These issues are often inadequately addressed by traditional services to assist veterans. This is due in part to a lack of structured and effective collaboration among agencies, forcing veterans to go from one agency to the other to get the help they need. This lack of efficient collaboration among agencies has led to homeless veterans' mistrust of the very government agencies and large institutions created to help them. The Stand Down is designed to ease that mistrust by providing a safe and non-judgmental environment.

The chart accompanying my testimony shows that we have progressively used less money as the result of less attendance. According to the last census was 151 homeless in North Dakota should 151 homeless in North Dakota. I would suspect that is very conservative.

We are asking for your support of this bill so that we can continue helping our brothers and sisters who are homeless.

Amvets Post 9, Bismarck
Funds

\$2,151.50

paid 2/13/2017

Postwar Trust

HB1178
1/30/2019
A

Amvets Post 9, Bismarck

\$4,511.45

paid 11/6/2015

General Fund

Minot Area Homeless Coalition

\$1,075.00

paid 11/6/2015

General Fund

Minot Area Homeless Coalition

\$1,100.00

paid 10/29/2014

General Fund

Amvets Post 9, Bismarck

\$3,242.46

paid 9/11/2014

General Fund

Minot Area Homeless Coalition

\$831.18

paid 10/30/2013

General Fund

Amvets Post 9, Bismarck

\$4,726.36

paid 10/23/2013

General Fund

Target Attendees (Homeless)

2013 - 19

2014 - 17

2015 - 19

2016 - unknown

2017 - 7

2018 - 1