

Minutes: Senate Military and Veterans Affairs

Monday, March 03, 2025 3:15 PM

Roll Call

Present: Sen. Blanc, Sen. Howard, Sen. Hohn, Sen. Marty, and Sen. Zikmund

The meeting was called to order by Senator Zikmund

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

Moved by: Howard
Second by: Marty
Action: Prevailed by voice vote

HB 1161 : allow additional forms to verify military service for a veteran designation on a commercial driver license or commercial learner's permit.

Presented by: Representative Tim Goodwin
Proponents: Jeannelle Yitagesu, Department of Public Safety

MOTION: DO PASS HB 1161

Moved by: Howard
Second by: Hohn
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (5-0-0-0)

Voting Yes: Blanc, Howard, Hohn, Marty, and Zikmund

HAVING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, THE CHAIR CERTIFIED HB 1161 AS UNCONTESTED AND AS SUCH BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

HB 1238 : establish protections for a veteran seeking assistance in a veterans' benefit matter.

Presented by: Senator Taffy Howard
Proponents: Representative Tim Goodwin
John Henry Blomstrom, Veterans Guardian VA Claims Consulting, Pinehurst, VA (Handout(s) 1)
Peter O'Rourke, National Association for Veteran Rights, Washington, D.C.
Ryan Scalmanini, Self, Chula Vista, CA (Handout(s) 2)
Sam Nelson, Self, Canton
Representative Terri Jorgenson
Opponents: Representative Christopher Reder (Handout(s) 3)
Michael Mehlhaff, American Legion Department of South Dakota, Watertown
Richard Rigney, Self, Harrisburg
Anna Arnold, Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sioux Falls
Larry Fossene, Self, Hartford

MOTION: DO PASS HB 1238

Moved by: Howard

Second by: Marty
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (4-1-0-0)

Voting Yes: Blanc, Howard, Hohn, and Marty

Voting No: Zikmund

MOTION: ADJOURN

Moved by: Marty
Second by: Hohn
Action: Prevailed by voice vote

Lexie Schumacher, Committee Secretary

/s/ LARRY P. ZIKMUND
Larry P. Zikmund, Chair