

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair
Skoe, Vice Chair
Day
Dille
Hann
Johnson, D.E.
Koering
Lourey
Nienow
Rest
Sams
Solon
Wergin

Senator Murphy was absent.

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. and called on Senator Wiger for S.F. 681. Senator Wiger stated he had a technical amendment. Senator Sams moved amendment SCS0681A-1. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Wiger stated there are approximately 18,800 in the Guard. Seldom do recruiters talk about death benefits. He stated this would cost approximately 3.7 million and part of that would be for the administration of the program. They would probably need two staff people. It would amount to 53 cents a day.

Senator Sams moved S.F. 681, as amended, be passed and be re-referred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Sams presented S.F. 616 and stated he had amendment SCS0616A-1. AMENDMENT PASSED. This bill extends the time period for eligibility under the National Guard's tuition reimbursement program for tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program.

Jim Adamitz, Henning, Minnesota. Mr. Adamitz stated he supports the bill.

Ione Koep, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She stated this bill came about because of her son. He had nine days in which to get ready to go. He needs time to complete his education when he gets home.

Col. Denny Shields, Assist to Adjutant General, stated they have no problem with the bill.

Senator Sams moved S.F. 616, as amended, be passed and re-referred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Skoe took over as chair and called on Senator Vickerman for S.F. 734. Senator Vickerman stated this is the Governor's bill for Military Affairs. He stated he would move the amendment A05-0188. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Col. Denny Shields, MN National Guard, stated they have unqualified support for the Governor and the Legislature and support this bill.

Senator Solon moved amendment SCS0734A-2. This deals with distinctive plates for Congressional Medal of Honor winners and was felt she should introduce a separate bill. Senator Solon stated she would withdraw her amendment.

Senator Johnson asked about the estimated loss of revenue to the state of Minnesota because of the income tax provision.

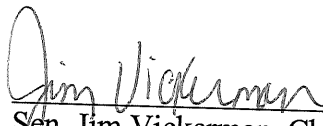
Michael Roelofs, Department of Finance, stated the first year would be \$630,000 and second year would be 330,000. He stated the costs have been accounted for in the Governor's tax bill.

Senator Skoe moved on Page 11, line 23, strike "June 15" AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Johnson moved S.F. 734, as amended, be passed and be re-referred to the Finance Committee. BILL PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

This meeting was taped.


Sen. Jim Vickerman, Chair


by/ Sandi Brown

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

3:00 p.m. Room 112, Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 681-Wiger: Military Affairs; life insurance premiums reimbursement.

S.F. 616-Sams: National guard tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program eligibility extension.

Jim Adamitz, Henning, Minnesota

Ione Koep, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

S.F. 734-Vickerman: Military Affairs; Support our Veterans license plates; tuition assistance; re-enlistment bonus; federal tax conformity issues.

Larry Shellito, Adjutant General, Minnesota Army National Guard

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Ag., Vets & Gaming
 Date: 3/9/05 Day: Wednesday Start Time: 3:13 pm

Agenda

3:4pm

Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 681
Author	Wiger
Short Descriptor	life insurance premiums reimbursement
Action(s)	as amended passed and sent to finance

3:20

Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 616
Author	SAMS
Short Descriptor	National Guard tuition & textbook reimbursement grant program eligibility extension. Jim Adamitz / Lone Keop / Denny Shields
Action(s)	as amended passed and sent to finance

3:35

Bill # (or Topic)	SF. 734
Author	Vickerman
Short Descriptor	tuition assistance / re-enlistment bonus Denny Shields / Larry Shellito
Action(s)	passed sent to transportation

Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	