

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair  
Skoe, Vice Chair  
Day  
Dille  
Hann  
Johnson, Dean  
Koering  
Lourey  
Murphy  
Nienow  
Rest  
Sams  
Solon  
Wergin

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. He called on Senator Rest.

Senator Rest presented S.F. 2953, the lawful gambling provisions modifications bill. Senator Rest moved amendment SCS2953A-2. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Koering moved amendment A06-1364. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Wergin moved amendment SCS2953A-1. Senator Rest spoke against the amendment. She asked Senator Wergin to offer it on the floor.

Senator Wergin withdrew her amendment.

Senator Rest moved S.F. 2953, as amended, be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Kiscaden presented S.F. 2728, the resolution for the Corporal Chuck Lindberg Clinic.

Senator Murphy moved S.F. 2728 be recommended to pass and placed on the Consent Calendar. BILL PASSED.

Senator Gerlach presented H.F. 3243, a bill for military service members protections.

Senator Murphy moved that H.F. 3243 be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Gerlach presented S.F. 3281, a bill relating to a supportive policy statement for military statement.

Senators Murphy and Rest told Senator Gerlach that the senate does not normally do policy statements. They stated they wouldn't hold it back – but for future use – this is not something the Senate does.

People speaking in favor were:

**Jerry Kyser, Chairman, Military Legislative Council**  
**Tom Nesbitt, Hastings, MN**  
**Ron Lustman, Glencoe, MN**

Senator Lourey stated she wanted an amendment that spoke to physical and mental health needs.

The bill was laid over while this amendment was worked out.

Senator Kubly presented S.F. 3437, a bill relating to a beginning farmer tax credit.

**Paul Sobocinski, Land Stewardship Project**, testified in support. He stated the purpose is to create tax incentives for established farmers or landowners to rent or sell land to beginning farmers.

**Karen Stettler, Land Stewardship Project**, stated this is a beginning farmer and mentoring program. Classes begin in the fall of the year and meet throughout the winter. There are pilot projects in Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska. **“See Attachments A & C.”**

**Dan French, Mantorville**, stated he was a seasonal, organic farmer, who is helping others get started. Organic farming is growing at 20 percent.

Senator Dille asked them to be more accepting of factory farms. He doesn't want them destroying existing farmer programs.

Mr. French stated the factory farmers need to fix their issues.

Senator Murphy moved that S.F. 3437, be passed and re-referred to Taxes. BILL PASSED.

Senator Lourey stated her amendment was ready for S.F. 3281.

Page 1, line 11, after “to” insert “meet the physical and mental health needs of returning veterans, and” AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Lourey moved that S.F. 3281, as amended, be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Murphy presented S.F. 2562, a bill relating to screening tests for uranium for armed service members. Senator Murphy stated he's not asking that uranium be removed from use – just that veteran's get a health screening. He stated in the first Gulf War it was used a lot. It's not being used so much anymore.

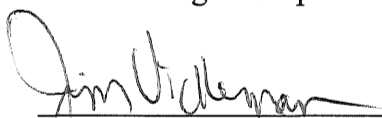
**Col Denny Shields, National Guard**, stated their priority is to take care of returning veterans. He stated that the armor that surrounds tanks also has depleted uranium.

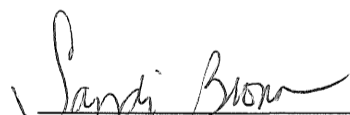
**Mike Pugliese, Dept. of Veterans Affairs**, stated they want to ensure that the veterans get the care they need. Their concern is the amount of money it will cost.

Senator Murphy moved S.F. 2562 be passed and re-referred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

This meeting was taped.

  
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Sen. Jim Vickerman, Chair

  
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by/ Sandi Brown

**Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee**

**Monday, March 27, 2006**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Room 112, Capitol**

**A G E N D A**

S.F. 2562-Murphy: Armed service members uranium exposure screening tests. *Passed, Finance*

*W. Marg*  
Bob Marg, Altura, Minnesota

H.F. 3243 (S.F. 3261) -Gerlach: Military service members protections. *-Passed*

*Amended Passed*  
S.F. 3281-Gerlach: Military service supportive policy statement.

*Ron Lustman,  
Tom Nesbitt,  
Jerry Kyser*

S.F. 2728-Kiscaden: Resolution for Corporal Chuck Lindberg clinic, *Passed - Consent Calendar -*

S.F. 3437-Kubly: Beginning farmer tax credit. *Passed, Taxes*

Karen Stettler, Land Stewardship Project

Paul Sobocinski, Land Stewardship Project

*Dan French, Farmer, Monticello*

S.F. 2953-Rest: Lawful gambling provisions modifications. *-Amended, Passed*