

Minnesota State Senate

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Subcommittee on Veterans
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
4:00 PM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Minutes

Present: Senator Aric Putnam - **Chair**, Senator Bruce D. Anderson, Senator Gene Dornink, Senator Heather Gustafson, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Robert J. Kupec, Senator Judy Seeberger, Senator Nathan Wesenberg

Absent: Senator Zach Duckworth

Senator Aric Putnam called the meeting to order at 4:31pm

Call to Order

*** Gavel changes to Senator Kupec at 4:32pm ***

S.F. 1959: Senator Putnam: Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs budget establishment provision, veterans benefits services accreditation disclosure requirements to veterans and veterans' family modifications provision, Gold and Blue Star families honor plaque on State Capitol grounds placed by the commissioner of administration requirement provision, and appropriation.

Testifiers:

- Lieutenant Colonel Eric Athman – Director of Operations, Minnesota Department of Military Affairs
- John Blomstrom – Manager of Government and Public Affairs,Veterans Guardians
- Barry Henriksen – Legislative Chair, Minnesota VFW
- Trent Dilks – Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota
- Michael McLaughlin – Veterans Service Officer, Blue Earth County
- Greg Peterson – Director of Veteran Services, Brown County
- Jason Marquardt – Army Veteran , Brown County CVSO, Past President, MACVSO
- Marissa LaCourt – Navy Veteran, Assistant County Veterans Service Officer, Goodhue County
- Ross LaCourt – Marine Veteran
- Larry Fonder – Director Sherburne County Veterans Services
- Todd Kemery – National Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Minnesota Chapter

Senator Putnam moves the A-2 amendment. Amendment is adopted.

Senator Putnam moves the A-4 amendment. Senator Anderson requests a roll call. Roll call granted.

AYES:

Senator Putnam
Senator Gustafson
Senator Kunesh
Senator Kupec
Senator Seeberger

NAYS:

Senator Anderson
Senator Dornink
Senator Wesenberg

ABSENT:
Senator Duckworth

With 5 ayes and 3 nays, the motion is adopted.

Senator Putnam makes a motion to refer as amended to the full committee on Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development.
Senator Anderson requests a roll call. Roll call granted.

AYES:
Senator Putnam
Senator Gustafson
Senator Kunesh
Senator Kupec
Senator Seeberger

NAYS:
Senator Anderson
Senator Dornink
Senator Wesenberg


ABSENT:
Senator Duckworth

With 5 ayes and 3 nays, the motion prevails.

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1959, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm



Senator Aric Putnam, Chair



Keely Spens, Legislative Assistant