

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE BILL NO. 2314
(Senators J. Lee, Dever, Marcellais)
(Representatives Owens, Pyle, Westlind)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 37-14-01.1 and 37-14-18 and subsection 8 of section 37-19.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the accreditation of county veterans' service officers and the definition of a veteran for purposes of veterans' relief and rehabilitation and veterans' preference.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 37-14-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

37-14-01.1. Definition of veteran.

As used in this chapter, "veteran" means an individual who served in the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty for:

1. For reasons other than training and who has been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions; or
2. To whom the United States veterans administration has assigned a service-connected disability rating.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

37-14-18. County veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.

The board of county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota shall appoint, employ, and pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a county veterans' service officer. The veterans' affairs commissioner may work directly with county veterans' service officers. An individual may serve as a county veterans' service officer in more than one county. The appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of veterans' affairs, and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section 37-19.1-02. ~~By August 1, 2011, all county~~All county veterans' service officers must be accredited by the national association of county veterans' service officers ~~or the department of veterans' affairs within twelve months of appointment or employment.~~ It is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to become acquainted with the laws, both state and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning servicemen and servicewomen to assist ~~sueh~~the returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and establishment of ~~sueh~~the claims, privileges, and rights ~~as they~~members have. ~~It also is the duty of the county~~The county veterans' service officer ~~to actively~~shall cooperate with and ~~to~~ coordinate the activities of the state and federal agencies within the county ~~which~~ the officer serves to facilitate their operation and ensure promptness in the solution of the problems concerned with the re-establishment of returning servicemen and servicewomen in civilian pursuits. A county veterans' service officer may not serve as a conservator for an individual ~~who is~~ receiving benefits or services from the department of veterans' affairs or the United States department of veterans' affairs, except if the individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the officer.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 8 of section 37-19.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8. "Veteran" means ~~a North Dakota resident~~an individual who is a wartime;

- a. Is a veteran as defined in subsection 21 of section 37-01-40; or
- b. Has been honorably discharged from the national guard or a reserve unit located within North Dakota and:
 - (1) Has completed a minimum of twenty years of service; or
 - (2) Served in a combat zone.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2314.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 86 Nays 0 Absent 8

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State