



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Military and Veteran Affairs

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 12:00 Noon Room 327 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was called to order by Representative Jason Wentworth, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Wentworth, Graves, Hughes, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Johnson, Sabo, Brinks, Byrd, Elder and Jones. (13/13)**
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of February 20, 2018, as printed.

Representative Albert moved to adopt the minutes of February 20, 2018, as printed. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5536.

HB 5536 (Wentworth) Veterans; other; county veteran service fund; create, and provide for funding and expenditures.

The Chair offered the following amendment to House Bill 5536:

1. Amend page 3, line 15, after "**PER**" by striking out "**MONTH**" and inserting "**WEEK**".

Representative Graves moved to adopt the amendment to House Bill 5536.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives Wentworth, Graves, Hughes, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Johnson, Sabo, Brinks, Byrd, Elder and Jones. (13/13)

Nays: None. (0/13)

The amendment was adopted.

The Chair turned over the gavel to Representative Graves, the Majority Vice-Chair at 12:05 p.m.

The Chair explained his bill, and responded to questions from committee members.

The Majority Vice-Chair went at ease at the call of the Chair at 12:13 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the committee at 12:13 p.m.

Michael Smith, Director of Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Office, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Renee Haley, Director of Clare County Veterans Affairs Office, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Representative Beth Griffin, representing House District 66, testified in support and introduced her constituents, Richard Godfrey, Chairman of the Van Buren County Commissioners, and Kenneth Johnson, a Marine veteran, who testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Robert Adams, an Army Vietnam veteran and a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, testified and introduced David Hagen, an Army veteran and Van Buren County Veterans Outreach Service Officer.

Josh Parish, an Army veteran from Livingston County, testified in support of the bill.

Paul Kaiser and Lino B. Pretto, the Commanders Group and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, submitted a testimony stating that they were neutral on the bill, but were unable to testify due to time restraints.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Steven A. Kozera, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs;

Phil Yeiter, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency; and

Meghann Keit, a Governmental Affairs Associate for Michigan Association of Counties.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards stating that they were neutral on the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Jack G. Devine, Legislative Director for the Vietnam Veterans of America Michigan State Council;

Mark A. Sutton, Public Relations Director for the American Legion Department of Michigan;

Timothy Poxson, American Legion Michigan Legislative Committee Chair;

Chaplin Jennifer Smith, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan; and

Marilyn Britten, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the American Legion of Michigan.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Glenn moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 12:57 p.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Jason Wentworth, Chair

House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee