Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 1310**

Introduced by

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Representatives Dockter, Karls, Thoreson, Guggisberg

Senator Carlisle

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 2 relating to eligibility of county veterans' service officers to be appointed as conservators.

## 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 6 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 veterans' service officers must be accredited by the national association of county veterans' service officers. 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 such returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and establishment of such claims, privileges, and rights as they have. It also is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to actively 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 reestablishment 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

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- 1 member of the officer, or unless the conservator is appointed by the county under chapter-
- 2 <del>11-21</del>.