

SENATE BILL NO. 2245

Introduced by

Senators Marcellais, Schneider, Warner

Representatives Mock, M. Nelson, Onstad

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 37-14 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to an Indian veteran representative; and to provide an appropriation for~~
3 ~~an Act to provide for a legislative management study of making provisions for Indian veterans'~~
4 ~~service representatives.~~

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~— **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 37-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **Indian veteran representative.**~~

9 ~~— The department of veterans' affairs shall provide for an Indian veteran representative in the~~
10 ~~county in which the most enrolled members of a particular tribe reside. The representative shall~~
11 ~~be acquainted with the state and federal laws enacted for the benefit of returning members of~~
12 ~~the armed forces to assist the members in the presentation, proof and establishment of claims,~~
13 ~~privileges, and rights the members have under law. The representative shall provide the~~
14 ~~services at no charge. The veterans' service officer in that county shall cooperate with the~~
15 ~~representative in providing assistance to veterans in that county applying for state and federal~~
16 ~~assistance available to veterans. The representative may not serve as a conservator for an~~
17 ~~individual who is receiving benefits or services from the department of veterans' affairs or the~~
18 ~~United states department of veterans' affairs, unless the individual is the spouse or an~~
19 ~~immediate family member of the representative or unless the conservator is appointed by the~~
20 ~~county under chapter 11-21.~~

21 ~~— **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general~~
22 ~~fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$125,000, or so much of the~~
23 ~~sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing an~~

1 ~~Indian veteran representative for each tribe in this state, for the biennium beginning July 1,~~
2 ~~2013, and ending June 30, 2015.~~

3 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - INDIAN VETERANS' SERVICE**

4 **REPRESENTATIVES STUDY.** During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall
5 consider studying the feasibility and desirability of funding Indian veterans' service
6 representatives to provide equivalent services to those provided by county veterans' service
7 officers. The study must include an evaluation of the number of Indian veterans in each county
8 and where the Indian veterans' service representatives should be located. The legislative
9 management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation
10 required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fifth legislative assembly.