

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2831

As Recommended by House Committee on
Veterans and Military

Brief*

HB 2831 would require the federal determinations concerning service-connected disability or death to be probative.

Definitions

The bill would define the following terms:

- “Service-connected disability” would mean a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air, or space service or death resulting from such disability; and
- “Veteran” would mean a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Federal Disability Determinations

The bill would prohibit state agencies and municipalities from reconsidering disability determinations made by the following federal officials:

- Secretary of the Army;

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Secretary of the Navy, when concerning the Navy and Marine Corps;
- Secretary of the Air Force, when concerning the Air Force or Space Force;
- Secretary of Homeland Security, when concerning the Coast Guard;
- Secretary of Health and Human Services, when concerning the Public Health Service;
- Secretary of Commerce, when concerning the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Prohibited Requests or Demands

The bill would prohibit state agencies and municipalities from requesting or demanding that a veteran:

- Submit private health information for the purpose of determining eligibility for disability benefits; or
- Voluntarily seek re-evaluation of existing service-connected disability claims.

Documentation for Verification

The bill would authorize requesting a veteran or their surviving family member provide certain records documenting the veteran's service-connected status.

Disclosure of Disability

The bill would require a veteran or their family member to disclose the veteran's disability rating under certain conditions.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Taxation at the request of Representative Ellis.

[*Note:* The bill is identical to the provisions of HB 2624, which was stricken from the House Calendar by Rule 1507 on February 23, 2024.]

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing on March 14, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Collins, who noted the bill would make federal disability determinations by the service secretary final, when proof of such federal determination is provided, and would avoid subjecting veterans to disability reconsideration by state and local agencies.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Military Officers Association of America.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services state enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on either agency.

Veterans; disability determinations; military