

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2624

As Recommended by House Committee on
Veterans and Military

Brief*

HB 2624 would require the federal determinations concerning service-connected disability or death to be probative. [Note: “Probative” is a legal term meaning tending to provide or disprove.]

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.

Proof of 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 do the following:

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

The bill would authorize asking a veteran or their surviving family member for 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 Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Thompson on behalf of Representative Dodson.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing on February 6, 2024, Representative Thompson and a representative of the Military Officers Association of America provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents generally noted the bill would make federal disabilities determinations by the service secretary final, which would avoid subjecting veterans to reconsideration by state and local agencies.

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 Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services state enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect for either agency.

Veterans; disability determinations; military