



Legislative Affairs Committee
July 27, 2016

Call to order

A meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee was held at the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as well as via teleconference on July 27, 2016.

Attendees

Attendees included:

- Senator Harry Brown (committee chair) (on phone)
- Representative George Cleveland (on committee)
- Mayor Chuck Allen (on committee)
- William Hatcher (on committee)
- Sally-Ann Gupta (Sen. Brown's office)
- Representative John Bell (non-voting member) (on phone)
- Kelly Barretto (NC DMVA)
- Secretary Cornell Wilson (NC DMVA)
- Joe Kelly (NC DMVA)
- Troy Holowiti (NC DMVA)
- Jeremy Schmidt (NC DMVA) (on phone)
- Dashadina Bravo (NC DMVA)

Members not in attendance

- Jeremiah Daniels (on committee)

Approval of minutes

Chair called meeting to order at 10:10am and minutes were approved.

Reports

Topic: Legislation Passed in the 2016 Short Session

Discussion: HB 1030 - Directs the DMVA to study the feasibility of creating a North Carolina Military Hall of Fame to recognize the contributions to the State and nation of members of the military with connections to North Carolina. Directs the Department to report its findings to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government no later than November 1, 2016. Requires report to address the following issues:

- (1) The desirability and feasibility of creating a North Carolina Military Hall of Fame.
- (2) Appropriate potential locations in this State for a Military Hall of Fame.
- (3) Projected costs of creating a Military Hall of Fame and potential revenue streams associated with the Military Hall of Fame that could be used to offset some or all of those costs.
- (4) Recommendations regarding the structure of the administration of the Military Hall of Fame.

(5) Potential processes for selecting members of the military for inclusion in the Military Hall of Fame.

(6) Methods for ensuring active involvement of the active and reserve components of the military in the operation of the Military Hall of Fame.

(7) Any other matter that the Department deems relevant.

HB 1030 - Provides a community college tuition and registration fee waiver to firefighters, EMS, and rescue and lifesaving personnel at military installations for courses that support their organization's needs. H1030 - Includes Appropriation for Camp Butner Land Purchase - \$250,000 for the purchase of a parcel of land adjacent to Camp Butner to allow continued use and potentially expanded use of training areas, resolving issue of new Army-mandated munitions that could have halted training at that location indefinitely. Provides \$1 million in funding to the Ag Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for military buffers.

S105: Include No. Veterans Employed/Annual Report - Requires the Secretary of Revenue to compile information about the number of veterans filing tax returns in NC annually, and to provide this information to the DMVA. This bill was signed into law by the Governor on July 26, 2016.

- Requires the Secretary to provide space on the individual income tax form D-400 for an individual to voluntarily indicate whether or not the filing individual is a veteran and, on a joint return, whether or not the individual's spouse is a veteran.
- Calls for Secretary to compile summary information on an aggregate basis about the number of veterans filing tax returns in this State and annually provide that information to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs no later than January 15 of each year.
- Information specific to individual employers or employees will remain confidential.

Topic: Hoffman Forest Agreement

01 July 2016 - NC State University and the Natural Resources Foundation reached an agreement on the use of Hofmann Forest that protects the forest, respects the needs of the military, and provides annual income for NC State's College of Natural Resources. The agreement gives a timber management company rights to grow, harvest and replant the timber while allowing the NC State Endowment Fund to maintain ownership of the land and the College of Natural Resources to use the forest as a teaching and working forest. Allowing the forest to continue as a working forest further ensures it remains undeveloped for military benefit.

Topic: HB 763 - Military Operations Protection (MOP) Act

- HB763 - The MOP Act cleared the Senate with bi-partisan support but was not taken up by the House before the close of the short session. Sen. Brown, joined by a bi-partisan group of other Senators and House members, have pledged to re-introduce this legislation in the 2017 long session.
- Sen. Brown issued a press release saying in part "Make no mistake - if we fail to fully protect our military installations, decision-makers in Washington could award them to states that will, and our local communities will be left picking up the pieces. Three taxpayer subsidized wind projects that create few jobs for North Carolinians should not take priority over the hundreds of thousands of jobs and tens of billions of dollars that we could jeopardize if we fail to stand up for our military."
- Importance of mobilizing support ahead of the next long session in anticipation of re-introducing HB 763

- During other presentations of the maps to developers, private companies specifically stated how beneficial an information tool like this could be in preventing unnecessary feasibility tests in locations that may never be approved.
- Rep. Bell expressed support for protecting areas from high structures and wind turbines encroaching on military training routes and would assist Sen. Brown in the General Assembly.

Discussion by the committee members expressed some concern regarding the current level of prohibition that the bill would cause. A proposal was made for the NCMAC to work with the DMVA and Elected Officials to create a bill that better utilizes the maps created by the Matrix Group.

Topic: Feasibility of creating Senate equivalent of House Committee on Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs

- Senator Brown is looking into the feasibility of creating a Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs
- Requires approval from leadership; working to gain approval

Unfinished business

Not applicable

New business

Topic: Lift Fan Facility

Discussion: A strong effort to bring the Vertical Lift Fan Facility to the state is being put together. This is a new business coming to the state and funding sources aside from DoD would make a positive case to push this project forward. It is imperative that private, state, and federal funds are used for the \$15 million facility. Research needs to be conducted to figure out how to combine multiple funding streams similar to projects in other states. The committee and Commission will work with the Department and Governor's office to move this forward quickly.

Announcements

Not applicable

Adjournment

Adjourn at 11:05am



Legislative Update Brief





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Questions?

