

American Legion Department of Illinois



Legislative Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date | time **9/23/2017 10 AM** | Meeting location *Bloomington, IL*

Meeting called by Legislative Commission

Type of meeting Committee Meeting

Facilitator Laimutis "Limey" Nargelenas

Permanent Secretary Kevin Kilkenney

Attendees:

Chairman:

Laimutis "Limey" Nargelenas(4), lnargelenas@gmail.com

Vice Chairman:

Hank Robards(5)

hankrobards@hometel.com

Committee members:

Kevin Kilkenney(3),

kevk0648@gmail.com

Ken Trumbull(1),

kjt1347@aol.com

Richard Groharing(2) Excused

rich@groharing .com

cc: Dept. HQ C/O Terry Gaddis

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I. Review of Previous Years (2016-17) Illinois Legislative Bills

These minutes of the 3/25/2017 have been annotated to reflect actions taken by the Illinois Legislature:

SB 87, PROP TX-SURVIVING SPOUSE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, for the 2016 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year. Provides that, for the 2015 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption in the current taxable year if he or she had survived. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a Referred to House Rules

SB0871 PROP TX-DISABLED VETERANS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Makes the following changes with respect to the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities: (1) provides that the exemption amount shall not be deducted from the property's equalized assessed value, but shall be an abatement from the property's total property tax liability for the taxable year; (2) provides that, if the veteran is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor or is a former prisoner of war, then the property is exempt from taxation; (3) provides that the veteran is not required to have qualified for or obtained the exemption before death if the veteran was killed in the line of duty and the death is found to be service-connected; (4) makes changes concerning reapplication; and (5) provides that, if the veteran has a service-connected disability of 70% or more and the property has an equalized assessed value of \$100,000 or more, then the amount of the exemption is \$5,000 (currently, the property is exempt). Effective immediately. SB 871, PROP TX-DISABLED VETERANS

Action: Accept _____ Reject X _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 3-9a Senate Assignments

SB 872, PROP TX-VETERANS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities shall be prorated if the property is first used as a qualified residence by a veteran with a disability after January 1 of a taxable year. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept _____ X _____ Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a House Rules

SB 1242, VETERANS' AFFAIRS-COMMISSIONS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the superintendent and staff of any Veterans Assistance Commission created under the Military Veterans Assistance Act with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' process of becoming accredited as a service organization representative of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. Provides that this assistance shall include, but not be limited to, a certifying official of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs certifying with his or her signature on behalf of the superintendent and staff of a Veterans Assistance Commission the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Application for Accreditation as a Service Organization Representative, and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs filing the application with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Action: Accept _____ X _____ Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 3-9b Senate Assignments

SB 605, PROP TX-SURVIVING SPOUSE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, for the 2015 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year. Provides that, for the 2016 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption in the current taxable year if he or she had survived. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept _____ X _____ Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 3-9b Senate Assignments

SB 687, VETERANS BURIAL PLACES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Veterans Burial Places Act. Provides that when a headstone or memorial marker is provided for a United States War Veteran pursuant to specified federal law by the federal government, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall pay an amount not to exceed \$300 (currently, \$100) to the next of kin or cemetery official responsible for the cost of transporting and erecting the headstone or memorial. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 3-9b Senate Assignments

SB 866, VETERANS-SERVICE ANIMALS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide informational resources and education to veterans returning from deployment regarding service animals for individuals with disabilities including, but not limited to, resources and education on service animals that guide people who are blind, pull a wheelchair, alert a person with hearing loss, protect a person having a seizure, assist a person with a traumatic brain injury, and calm a person with post-traumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack or psychiatric episode.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0084

SB 1693, VITAL RECORDS-MILITARY SERVICE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Vital Records Act. Provides that the death certificate for an individual with a history of military service may include or may be amended to include the deceased individual's veteran status, the branch of the military that he or she served in, and the period of time that he or she served in the military. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0310

SB 1756, FLAG DISPLAY-GOVERNOR NOTICE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Flag Display Act. Provides that in lieu of notice being provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, any other State or federal entity, agency, or person holding such information may notify the Governor of the death by hostile fire of an Illinois resident member of the United States armed forces. Provides that if such notice is provided to the Governor by an entity, agency, or person other than the Department of Veterans' Affairs, then the obligation to notify the Governor of an Illinois resident soldier's death shall be considered fulfilled.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

House Rules Committee

SB 1757, VETERANS' AFFAIRS-REFERENCES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Changes the short title of the Act to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Amends various Acts by correcting references to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act and the Department of Veterans' Affairs and by eliminating references to the Illinois Veterans' Commission, which was the predecessor agency of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Effective January 1, 2018.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

House Rules Committee

SB 1620, PROCUREMENT-VETERAN PREF

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the certification of service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses is an exclusive powers and functions of the State. Denies home rule powers. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 3-9b Senate Assignments

HB 2647, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Contains provisions concerning the establishment of various programs and services for the benefit of veterans including a proactive outreach program for veterans that served in high casualty units, in units that experienced high conflict areas, and in units where at least one service member committed suicide following his or her service; a public awareness campaign concerning the trauma and internal injuries suffered by veterans; specified training concerning mental health services for employees of veterans service organizations, Veterans Assistance Commissions, and veterans' service associations; educational success programs for veterans experiencing specified difficulties in higher education; a family preparation course for the families of returning veterans; a licensing program for therapy dogs for veterans; a transition program for returning veterans that reside in the State; a system that allows veterans to file a specified federal form immediately upon discharge; creation of an employer training program; and a standard statewide peer-to-peer training program to familiarize veterans with the veterans' services available at the local, State, and federal levels. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0482

HB 2652, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Contains provisions concerning the establishment of various programs and services for the benefit of veterans including an educational success programs for veterans experiencing specified difficulties in higher education; a family preparation course for the families of returning veterans; a transition program for returning veterans that reside in the State; a system that allows veterans to file a specified federal form immediately upon discharge; creation of an employer training program; and a standard statewide peer-to-peer training program to familiarize veterans with the veterans' services available at the local, State, and federal levels. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2653, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Contains provisions concerning the establishment of various programs and services for the benefit of veterans including a proactive outreach program for veterans that served in high casualty units, in units that experienced high conflict areas, and in units where at least one service member committed suicide following his or her service; a public awareness campaign concerning the trauma and internal injuries suffered by veterans; and a licensing program for therapy dogs for veterans. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2654, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide training to frontline employees at veterans service organizations established under the Act on mental health services to identify veterans who might be at risk of suicidal thoughts. Provides that the training may include, but not be limited to, mental health first aid training and amplified suicide advanced training programs. Provides that the Department shall provide assistance to Veterans Assistance Commissions established under the Military Veterans Assistance Act and veterans' service associations, including, but not limited to, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS, in providing the training. Provides that the Department shall find combat veterans to serve as veteran service officers at veterans service organizations established under the Act for the purpose of having veteran services officers who are able to properly relate to fellow combat veterans. Requires the Department to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2656, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Contains provisions concerning the establishment of various programs and services for the benefit of veterans including an educational success program for veterans experiencing specified difficulties in higher education; a family preparation course for the families of returning veterans; a transition program for returning veterans that reside in the State; a system that allows veterans to file a specified federal form immediately upon discharge; creation of an employer training program; and a standard statewide peer-to-peer training program to familiarize veterans with the veterans' services available at the local, State, and federal levels. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2657, VETERANS' SUICIDE TASK FORCE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Contains provisions concerning the establishment of various programs and services for the benefit of veterans including a proactive outreach program for veterans that served in high casualty units, in units that experienced high conflict areas, and in units where at least one service member committed suicide following his or her service; a public awareness campaign concerning the trauma and internal injuries suffered by veterans; and a licensing program for therapy dogs for veterans. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2658, VETERANS-MENTAL HEALTH

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide training to frontline employees at veterans service organizations established under the Act on mental health services to identify veterans who might be at risk of suicidal thoughts. Provides that the training may include, but not be limited to, mental health first aid training and amplified suicide advanced training programs. Provides that the Department shall provide assistance to Veterans Assistance Commissions established under the Military Veterans Assistance Act and veterans' service associations, including, but not limited to, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS, in providing the training. Provides that the Department shall find combat veterans to serve as veteran service officers at veterans service organizations established under the Act for the purpose of having veteran services officers who are able to properly relate to fellow combat veterans. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 2973, DISCHARGED SERVICEMEMBERS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council shall investigate the re-entry process for service members who return to civilian life after being engaged in an active theater. Provides that by July 1, 2018 and by July 1 of each year thereafter, the Council shall present a specified annual report. Provides that such investigation and annual report responsibilities shall be a continuation of the investigation and annual report responsibilities of the Illinois Discharged Servicemembers Task Force. Provides that through July 1, 2017, the Task Force shall present the specified annual report. Provides that as soon as is practicable after the Task Force presents its final report due by July 1, 2017, any information collected by the Task Force in carrying out its duties under specified provisions shall be transferred to the Council. Provides that the Task Force is dissolved on July 1, 2018. Amends the Board of Higher Education Act to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0010

0010

HB 3017, FLAG DISPLAY-GOVERNOR NOTICE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Flag Display Act. Provides that in lieu of notice being provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, any other State or federal entity, agency, or person holding such information may notify the Governor of the death by hostile fire of an Illinois resident member of the United States armed forces. Provides that if such notice is provided to the Governor by an entity, agency, or person other than the Department of Veterans' Affairs, then the obligation to notify the Governor of an Illinois resident soldier's death shall be considered fulfilled.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0033

HB 3018, VETERANS' AFFAIRS-REFERENCES

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Changes the short title of the Act to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Amends various Acts by correcting references to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act and the Department of Veterans' Affairs and by eliminating references to the Illinois Veterans' Commission, which was the predecessor agency of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Effective January 1, 2018.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0143

HB 3088, AABD-LIFE INSURANCE EXEMPTION

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. In provisions concerning a claim against the estate of a deceased recipient, provides that, subject to federal approval, no claim of the State shall be enforced against any life insurance benefits or proceeds provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to the surviving spouse of the deceased recipient.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a

HB 3659, AGR-VETERANS ANIMAL ADOPTION

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that an animal shelter that creates or has an existing program where veterans of the United States Armed Forces may adopt an animal at a discounted rate or at no charge, the Department of Agriculture shall charge half the fee required for licensing or renewal for that animal shelter.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a House

HB 305, MUNI-PD COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that the requirement that a police applicant possess an associate's degree may also be waived if the applicant has successfully received credit for a minimum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (currently, this requirement may be waived only if the applicant has served for 24 months of active duty or 180 days combat duty in the United States Armed Forces). Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Public Act 100-0467

HB 329, CONCEALED CARRY-PROHIBIT PLACE

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Firearm Concealed Carry Act. Provides that a licensee under the Act shall not knowingly carry a firearm into any building, real property, or parking area under the control of (1) a licensed establishment as defined and licensed under the Video Gaming Act, or (2) a licensed fraternal establishment or licensed veterans establishment as defined and licensed under the Video Gaming Act, where alcoholic liquor is drawn, poured, mixed, or otherwise served for consumption on the premises. Provides that a licensee under the Act shall not knowingly carry a firearm into any building under the control of a licensed fraternal establishment, licensed veterans establishment, or licensed truck stop establishment, as defined and licensed under the Video Gaming Act, and alcoholic liquor is not drawn, poured, mixed, or otherwise served for consumption on the premises. Provides that any person (rather than the owner) lawfully in possession and control of private real property of any type may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms on the property (deletes under his or her control). Provides that if the property is a private residence no sign need be posted and it shall be presumed that the carrying of concealed firearms is prohibited in the residence and a violation of the Act. Effective immediately

Action: Accept _____ Reject X Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a House

HB 3271, POLICE & FIRE-EXAMINATIONS

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a civil service commission or a councilor board of trustees of a board of fire and police commissioners may provide for additional examinations to occur within a reasonable period after the commission receives an application from a person who, within the 6 months preceding an application, was discharged from the active or reserve components of any of the branches of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, of any state, and whose service was characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions. Effective immediately.

Action: Accept X Reject _____ Request Modification or Information _____

Rule 19a House

HR 16, URGE CONGRESS-VETS-MEDS REFILL

Synopsis As Introduced

Urges Congress to pass legislation in support of the establishment of VA emergency prescription refill programs nationwide to ensure that, in emergency situations, veterans may receive medication directly from their local pharmacy and VA facility.

Action: Accept X Reject Request Modification or Information

Resolution Adopted

HR 101, ILL WOMEN VETS DAY

Declares November 9, 2017 as "Illinois Women Veterans Day".

Action: Accept Reject X Request Modification or Information

Resolution Adopted

II. Review of National Legislative Agenda by Hank Robards

III. Excerpt from The Legion Dispatch

NDAA for fiscal year 2017 signed into law

By James Oxford, National Legislative Commission chairman

JAN 09, 2017

On Dec. 2, the House voted 375-34 to approve the conference report to **S. 2943**, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2017. The Senate followed suit on Dec. 8, approving the measure by a recorded vote of 92-7. It was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Dec. 23, and is now **P.L. 114-328**.

This measure sets the spending parameters and policy statements for America's military forces for this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, 2016. This legislation sets Department of Defense (DoD) spending for the upcoming year at \$619 billion for base national defense. This includes the administration's base request of \$610 billion; \$5.8 billion supplemental request for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Europe; and a further \$3.2 billion for Readiness Stabilization Funding to stop the drawdown of the military, which is fueling the readiness crisis.

Other highlights of the measure include:

- A 2.1 percent pay raise for troops;
- A stop to the drawdown and an increase to the end strength of America's armed forces;

- A solution to getting better technology into the hands of war fighters more quickly;
- An increase of funding for depot maintenance facilities, sustainment and modernization, and ship maintenance; and
- An increase of ship procurement, especially for submarines and amphibious ships.

The NDAA improves access to quality care for war fighters, military retirees and their families, while enhancing medical readiness. The measure also makes no changes to the Basic Allowance for Housing. Further, it makes reforms to ensure the military commissary benefit will be preserved. However, once again, Congress failed to repeal the Disabled Veterans Tax or to provide mandatory end-of-service physical examination to reserve component troops.

Other reforms contained in the NDAA include updating the Uniform Code of Military Justice, DoD organizational reform, and limiting the staff size of the National Security Council.

Veterans legislation passes

The House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees compiled an omnibus bill consisting of VA-related provisions. H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, passed the Senate without amendment by voice vote on Dec. 10, after it passed the House on Dec. 6. The measure was signed by Obama on Dec. 16, and is now P.L. 114-315.

This bill is named after Jeff Miller, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Richard Blumenthal, ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. This omnibus bill drew together a number of pending non-controversial veterans' bills that were bipartisan and voted out of committee months ago.

Hank Robards passed out the following informational handouts:

1. 115th Congress-1st Session Legislative Papers
2. Legislative Agenda for 115th Congress Pamphlet
3. The American Legion Legislative Agenda (submitted to accompany testimony before Congress by American Legion Commander Charles E Schmidt-March 1, 2017)

How to file a Witness Slip in the Illinois General Assembly

When bills are in committee, completing witness slips (your views on legislation) provides input to the committee members regarding these bills. Please follow the directions below to file witness slips on pro-life and pro-family related legislation.

You must know the House or Senate bill number(s) and the name of the committee each bill is assigned to before you begin.

STEPS TO FILE WITNESS SLIP(S):

1. Go to the Illinois General Assembly Website at www.ilga.gov
2. At the website, click on **GA Dashboard** found in red on lower left, under **Reports and Inquiry**
3. Then click **Senate** or **House** as appropriate at the left of the screen.
4. Then click **Committees** (not Committee Hearings) at the left of the screen.

5. Go down to find the appropriate Committee and if it says **Scheduled** to the right of it, click on the second icon (red gavel) to the far right for **View Committee Hearings**.
6. Then, click on **View Legislation** on far right.
7. When bills appear, find the bill of interest and click on the icon to the far right for **Create Witness Slip** (a red pen and paper).
8. Complete the witness form. Enter your personal information for required fields
Leave the **Description** as **Original Bill**. Make sure to select either **opponent** or **proponent** based on the bill you are referring to under **POSITION** and select **record of appearance only** under **TESTIMONY**. Check the **Terms of Agreement** and then click **Create (Slip)**.
9. When slip creation is confirmed, select either "Create Another" or "I Am Finished"

To avoid entering your personal information for each witness slip, you can register so that information will be filled in for you from your registration data.

After taking the first two steps above:

3. At the Dashboard site, click on **Register** on the left column
4. At the **Create an Account** page, follow the requests to put in your email and create your password. Check that you agree to the Terms and Agreements and then click **register**.
5. You will receive an email acknowledging your registration. You must confirm your registration from that email.
6. Now that you have created an account, you can **log in** whenever you need to file a witness slip (go to far right upper corner of the screen for **Log On** – may need to scroll to the right to see it)

How to file a Witness Slip in the Illinois General Assembly

Register online with the Illinois General Assembly in order to file witness slips (your views on legislation). Please follow the directions below. After you have registered you can file witness slips on pro-life and pro-family related legislation. Please register now.

STEPS TO REGISTER ONLINE:

1. Go to the Illinois General Assembly Website at www.ilga.gov
2. At the website, click on **GA Dashboard** found in red under **Reports and Inquiry**
3. At the Dashboard site, click on **Register** on the left column
4. At the **Create an Account** page, follow the requests to put in your email and create your password. Check that you agree to the Terms and Agreements and then click **register**.
5. You will receive an email acknowledging your registration. You must confirm your registration from that email.

6. Now that you have created an account, you can **log in** whenever you need to file a witness slip.

WHEN YOU WISH TO FILE A WITNESS SLIP: follow the instructions below on how to do this:

1. First, follow the directions above (steps 1 and 2) to get to the **GA Dashboard** once you are registered.
2. When you are there, click **log in** found at the upper right of the screen.
3. Then click **Senate** or **House** as appropriate at the left of the screen.
4. Then click **Committees** at the left of the screen.
5. Go down to find the appropriate Committee and if it says **Scheduled** to the right of it, click on the second icon **View Committee Hearings**.
6. Then, click on **View Legislation** on right.
7. When bills appear, find the bill of interest and click on the second icon **Create Witness Slip** (a pen and paper).
8. Complete the witness form. Your personal information will be filled in from your registration data. Leave the **Description** as **Original Bill**. Make sure to select either **opponent** or **proponent** based on the bill you are referring to under **POSITION** and **record of appearance only** under **TESTIMONY**. Check the **Terms of Agreement** then click **Create (Slip)**.

II. Convention Meeting Minutes Review

(See File) Dept_Leg_Comm-Rpt_2017

III. New Agenda Items

a. By Chairman

It was suggested that we as a Committee and Department Commander have a meeting with the Speaker and or President of the Legislature concerning Veterans legislative concerns.

b. By Members

Hank Robards updated us on the National Convention and it issues. The following documents from national were shared:

1. National Legislative Committee Meeting Report-Reno 2017

(See File) Natl_Leg_Comm_Conv_Rpt

2. National Legislative Activities Council Report-Reno 2017

(See File) Natl_Leg_Activities_Rpt_2017

3. 99th National Convention Resolutions

(See File) Res_Natl_Conv_2017

4. Legislative Brochure 115th Congress

(See File) Brochure_Natl_Leg_115th

c. Guests

Department Commander and Sr. Vice Commander visited the Commission meeting to give their greetings and thanks.

Department Adjutant Marty Conaster brought up the Illinois Centennial Coin being produced. 500 numbered coins will be produced with the Centennial Posts still active being given first choice of the coin with their Post number on it. After that those coins not taken will be made available on a first come first serve basis. The coin will come with a plastic cover and nice cloth bag. Legislative Commission came up with the idea of having a "0" numbered coin for Department to keep.

The meeting was closed in due format 11:17 AM by chairman Nargelenas.

References Used:

<http://www.ilga.gov> used for reference to current Illinois legislation

<https://www.legion.org/dispatch/235527/ndaa-fiscal-year-2017-signed-law>

<http://www.veteransresources.org/rao-bulletin> used for reference to Federal legislation

Notes: