

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 388

Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the rating and combined rating system that the Department of Veterans' Affairs uses to determine compensation payments and access to other benefits. The combined total rating for a disabled veteran determines the benefits and compensation rates the disabled veteran receives. Combined ratings also determine whether a disabled veteran meets the requirements for total disability based on individual unemployability.

The calculation for determining benefits and compensation rates is relatively simple when a person only has one rated service-connected disability. Combined ratings are far more complicated as each service-connected disability is assigned its own rating based on the severity of the veteran's symptoms. This study shall assess the current process for calculating such percentages and examine any changes that may need to be made to ensure disabled veterans are receiving the benefits they need.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Examining how disability rates are compounded and calculated; and
- (2) Discerning whether the compounded disability rates that are being assigned to Nebraska disabled veterans are appropriate for their level of disability and the way their disabilities have impacted their life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report

of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.