



I write in support of HB 2624. MOAA’s Kansas Council of Chapters seeks to reduce administrative burdens placed upon service-connected disabled veterans and surviving family members.

The bill defines the terms “veteran,” “service-connected,” and “non-service-connected.” In particular, “veteran” has multiple definitions in various Kansas statutes. This bill will conform the Kansas definition to the federal definition, removing a potential source of future expensive litigation.

This bill will ensure federal disability determinations provide all evidence needed by Kansas officials to administer programs to benefit veterans. The bill’s provisions ensure veteran’s federal disability determinations under Title 10 Chapter 61 authority are considered in the administration of Kansas government programs. Several provisions in current law only recognize federal disability determinations under Title 38 Chapter 11 authority.

This bill will codify the documentation needed to establish a service-connected disability determination and will ease burdens and avoid disputes in administration of state programs. This bill will vastly improve privacy protections for service-connected veterans’ medical conditions and medical records.

MOAA’s Kansas Council of Chapters thanks the committee for this bill and urges the affirmative support of the committee in final action.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kelly

**State Legislative Chair
Kansas Council of Chapters**