

Senate Study Bill 3118 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON BEALL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for representation of military veterans on
2 certain mental health policy bodies.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 225C.4, subsection 1, Code 2009, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *t.* Coordinate with the mental health
4 planning and advisory council created pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §
5 300x-3 to ensure the council membership includes representation
6 by a military veteran who is knowledgeable concerning the
7 behavioral and mental health issues of veterans.

8 Sec. 2. Section 225C.5, subsection 1, Code Supplement 2009,
9 is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

10 NEW PARAGRAPH. *jj.* One member who is a military veteran
11 and who is knowledgeable concerning the behavioral and mental
12 health issues of veterans.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill provides representation of military veterans on
15 certain mental health policy bodies.

16 Code section 225C.4, relating to the duties of the
17 administrator of the division of mental health and disability
18 services of the department of human services, is amended to
19 direct the administrator to coordinate with the mental health
20 planning and advisory council created pursuant to federal law
21 to ensure the council membership includes representation by a
22 military veteran who is knowledgeable concerning the behavioral
23 and mental health issues of veterans. The council operates
24 with its own bylaws and its membership is subject to federal
25 requirements requiring certain state agencies to be represented
26 and imposing a membership percentage limitation on the members
27 who are state employees or providers of mental health services.

28 Code section 225C.5, creating the mental health, mental
29 retardation, developmental disabilities, and brain injury
30 commission, is amended to add a new membership slot for a
31 military veteran who is knowledgeable concerning the behavioral
32 and mental health issues of veterans. Under current law the
33 commission has 17 voting members appointed by the governor and
34 confirmed by the senate.