

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

723S0747

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010

Introduced by: Representatives Kloucek, Blake, Bolin, Feinstein, Kirschman, Lucas, Nelson (Stace), Russell, Schaefer, Schrempp, Sigdestad, and Stricherz and Senators Nygaard, Bradford, Lederman, Maher, and Schlekeway

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the needs of certain veterans for state
2 assistance.

3 WHEREAS, on a per capita basis, South Dakota ranks fourth in the nation in numbers of
4 military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, based on regular military, reserve, and
5 National Guard service; and

6 WHEREAS, South Dakotans have a long history of military service in time of war. These
7 veterans, past and present, have brought honor to South Dakota through their service during
8 times of national emergency and crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, despite their service and sacrifice, many veterans face financial difficulty on
10 their return to the United States, particularly during times of state and national economic crisis
11 and uncertainty; and

12 WHEREAS, in South Dakota there may be as many as one thousand veterans who are
13 experiencing severe financial hardship with no coverage in the form of state veterans benefits
14 to address their situation, no federal assistance other than food stamps, and no recourse other



1 than to turn to family and friends for assistance; and

2 WHEREAS, a proposal by District 10 of the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars to
3 establish a state grant program for veterans facing severe financial distress deserves
4 consideration; and

5 WHEREAS, the proposed grant program would entail a monthly payment of \$300 to eligible
6 veterans for an annual amount of \$3,600. Strict eligibility standards would be established to
7 preclude payment to persons with sufficient income sources. The program would be
8 administered by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs; and

9 WHEREAS, South Dakota's military service members and veterans continue to serve their
10 state and nation with distinction and honor:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
12 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
13 Dakota Legislature endorses the concept advanced by District 10 of the South Dakota Veterans
14 of Foreign Wars to provide a state-run grant program to assist eligible veterans facing severe
15 financial hardship.