

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2010

840R0580

## SENATE BILL NO. 150

Introduced by: Senators Gillespie, Abdallah, Ahlers, Bradford, Hanson (Gary), Heidepriem, Jerstad, and Knudson and Representatives Thompson, Blake, Hunhoff (Bernie), Schrempp, Solberg, and Steele

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for an interim study of the potential creation of  
2 a Department of Veterans Affairs as a cabinet-level department.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. The Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council shall appoint an interim  
5 legislative committee to study the potential creation of a Department of Veterans Affairs as a  
6 cabinet-level department. The committee shall devote special attention to the following:

- 7 (1) Are South Dakotan veterans, their dependents, and survivors receiving the benefits,  
8 entitlements, and services for which they are eligible;
- 9 (2) Is the current Department of Military and Veterans Affairs addressing the needs of  
10 homeless veterans under the homeless veterans initiative program established  
11 pursuant to § 33-17-40;
- 12 (3) What is the status of the East River veterans nursing facility study and the East River  
13 cemetery study which were to be conducted by the current Department of Military  
14 and Veterans Affairs;



1       (4)    Is a South Dakota military funeral honors program as authorized by the Department  
2            of Defense being implemented by the South Dakota Department of Military and  
3            Veterans Affairs;

4       (5)    A review of the current activities and programs of the Department of Military and  
5            Veterans Affairs relating to veterans and county veterans service officers; and

6       (6)    Other issues affecting South Dakota veterans and their families.

7       The committee shall submit its findings, including legislative proposals and other  
8       recommendations, to the 2011 Legislature.