Submission of Testimony

The Legislature will no longer be accepting written, submitted testimony prior to the committee hearing. To appear on the transcript, a testifier must physically appear before a committee and be available to answer questions from the committee members.

• The practice of submitting written testimony for public hearings on a bill or resolution will be discontinued. Only in-person testimony will be accepted and appear on the committee statement.
• The submission of public comments to the online bill database will continue.
• The procedure for submitting position letters for inclusion as a permanent record of the public hearing record has changed. The submission of public comments to the online bill database will allow for the person submitting comments to request the comments to be part of the permanent hearing record if submitted prior to 12 p.m. CST the workday prior to the hearing. This is a new feature of the online bill database. The online bill database will be the only way to submit comments for inclusion as a public hearing exhibit. Letters and comments submitted via email or hand-delivered will no longer be included as part of the hearing record.

In addition, the processes for testifying or submitting comments are outlined on the Nebraska Legislature’s “Public Hearing” webpage. https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php?fbclid=IwAR0YXogaGTGPjGl8kSLsDBz2aNhgKsxYxWYeHJoIxlHgGvhZH9HXg9Horrw

Important dates for Hearings for veteran-related bills follow:

2022 Legislative Session
The 107th Legislature, 2nd session, runs January 5th to April 20th, 2022.

2022 Military & Veterans Legislation
https://veterans.nebraska.gov/legislative-issues
2022 Legislative Tracker (1/14/22)
• 2022 Legislative Calendar
• 2021-22 Legislative Committees
• 2021-22 Nebraska Unicameral Senator List
• Unicameral Process
• Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

You can read the bills as introduced: at the search for bills on the link above.

Tell Your friends about our Newsletter
You are invited to our Facebook page with over 5,000 friends (Nebraska Veterans Coalition) that contain many interesting topics also follow Twitter @VetsCoalitionNE, and our website http://www.nebraskaveterans.org/.
Your business can advertise as a veteran-owned business or business that hires veterans on our website and is free http://www.nebraskaveterans.org. Send your business card to the Webmaster cornhusker69@yahoo.com.

**VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS INFORMATION**

State Commanders, Post Commanders (representative of the executive board), or President of Veterans Groups.
Tell us about your organization. We do not want National information (but it can be referenced), tell us what you do at your facility, the location, contact information, and what is needed for someone to join and support you. We will post the information you provide to our Newsletter one time and then post it on our website. You are encouraged to post veterans’ events on our Facebook, Nebraska Veterans Coalition, also follow Twitter @VetsCoalitionNE and our website. We can post a link for your monthly newsletter to http://www.nebraskaveterans.org/

We encourage your members to follow our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/1001038876574340 Nebraska Veterans Coalition and request to become a member. We would also like to email you our monthly newsletter to pass to your membership and they can, send us an email and allow us to add them to our email distribution list nevetscoalition@outlook.com.

We request your webmaster post our contact information to your newsletter or website and request your members to follow our social forums or request added to our Newsletter distribution at nevetscoalition@outlook.com.

**MILLARD AMERICAN LEGION NEWS**

PUBLISHED BY MILLARD AMERICAN LEGION POST 374 MILLARD, NEBRASKA

Second Largest Post in Nebraska
VOLUME: JANUARY 2022 TELEPHONE: 402-895-1324 EDITOR: LISA PETERSEN
Location address: 13913 S Plaza Omaha NE 68137 (down from Amazing Pizza Machine

Read Commander's comments also from SAL, ALR, Auxiliary, and Second Vice Month activities calendar

Open the website and see the newsletter in the link below
http://www.post374.org/?fbclid=IwAR38uN3uLCRB1ZNkeR_GqdCMdfiWLKcM3mTIsRjvGIfJ9AT6YM8wY9H-TPE

**American Legion Post 23, Auburn, NE**

https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionauburn/

**Lincoln Post 3 - The American Legion**

Lincoln Post 3 is a chartered Post of The American Legion.
We were originally chartered on August 10, 1920.
We meet in the Elks building, located at 5910 S 58th Street, in southeast Lincoln.
Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6pm for dinner and fellowship, followed by the meeting at 7pm
https://www.facebook.com/LincolnAmericanLegionPost3/?ref=page_internal

**This is about us:**

The Nebraska Veteran's Coalition

The Nebraska Veteran's Coalition is a non-partisan group, formed to bring awareness to veterans about legislative activity in the Nebraska Unicameral, to inform them of who their elected officials are, and
PRIMARY PURPOSES:

1. Encourage legislative efforts to create a positive environment to attract and retain veterans, collaborating with other departments and groups to draw talent and promote Nebraska.
2. Encourage the improvement of medical treatment of veterans by working with the VA and the establishment of a Home Base program similar to Iowa and Massachusetts.
3. Provide information to veterans and family members about available benefits from the VA and the state of Nebraska.
4. Share information about activities within the VA, the US Congress, and the Nebraska Unicameral to improve the support of veterans and their families.

View our complete Mission statement on our Facebook page or website.

Welcome To America's #1 Veterans Magazine

Click on Grapevine of Your Choice

http://veteransgrapevine.com/?fbclid=IwAR1f31gv8NDH8OJ9L_4CEU7X6P4tATxYKEOsjs5hc6h24erf4gfYiArxGk

WATCH NOW: as Gov. Ricketts discusses 2022 tax priorities


Military OneSource sent this bulletin at 12/29/2021 09:42 AM EST

Online Military Memorial, MilTax & Relationship Skills: Jan. 2022

Countdown to MilTax
Wellness Summit
Your Economic Security Matters
De-Stress Your 2022
Set Goals with SECO

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODMILITARYONESOURCE/bulletins/30256d7

Law Aimed at Helping Millions Exposed to Burn Pits and Toxins Would Cost at Least $282 Billion

7 Dec 2021
Military.com | By Patricia Kime

Landmark legislation that would broadly expand Department of Veterans Affairs health care and disability benefits for U.S. troops sickened by burn pits and other environmental exposures would cost more than $282 billion over 10 years, a new congressional budget estimate has found.
The legislative proposal, known as the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT, Act, would potentially give millions more veterans health care and compensation from the VA, including post-9/11 service members and those from earlier eras who have illnesses thought to be related to military service.
But it comes at a price, according to the Congressional Budget Office: $84.9 billion in the first four years if approved this year and $281.5 billion through 2031.
MORE:

PTSD Treatment Works

Veterans Health Administration sent this bulletin at 12/22/2021 10:00 AM EST

If you are coping with PTSD or trauma and haven't connected with a healthcare provider, make an appointment in your area today. Help is available and treatment works. Visit AboutFace to hear inspirational stories of hope and perseverance from other Veterans who have sought treatment for PTSD and thrived. Then, follow in their footsteps and reach out for help. To find local treatment visit the PTSD Program Locator. This map will help you locate the type of treatment you need by state. This includes everything from a PTSD evaluation, substance misuse treatment, and outpatient or inpatient care. No matter your personal needs, there is a program that can help. Connect with treatment today to start your journey towards a healthy future.

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVHA/bulletins/3022541

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NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

https://veterans.nebraska.gov/

News & Events

https://veterans.nebraska.gov/news

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Recruitment - New Wages at Veterans' Homes

- Increased wages at our veterans' homes in Bellevue, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff! We have 20% increases for support roles like food service and housekeeping and 30% increases for clinical roles like RNs, LPNs, and CNAs. On top of that is an additional $3 differential for all teammates at the homes. PLUS BONUSES for sign-on, referrals, commuting, and clinical certifications!
- MORE https://veterans.nebraska.gov/recruitment-new-wages-veterans-homes

View openings in: Bellevue | Kearney | Norfolk | Scottsbluff

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DHHS, Nebraska Medical Association Team Up To Develop Behavioral Health Program

NEWS RELEASE

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

For Immediate Release: 12/21/2021

Lincoln – The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)'s Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) are teaming up to develop a specialized training, competency development and professional consultation program to further integrate behavioral health treatment within Nebraska's physical health provider network. “The purpose of this exciting new project is to innovate coordination of and service access to healthcare resources especially in rural Nebraska,” said Sheri Dawson, director of the Division of Behavioral Health...
at DHHS. "We know that behavioral health is essential to overall health. For example, persons with any mental illness or substance use disorder are more likely to have chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, heart disease and stroke than those without mental illness or substance use disorders. Frequently individuals are more likely to use hospitalization and emergency room treatment late in their illness progression. We welcome NMA's partnership and know that they will be providing valuable guidance, insight, education, services and training to Nebraska's medical community that in turn will help us serve local communities and Nebraskans in a more integrated and holistic manner."

Integrating behavioral health across public and private systems is a key pillar of DBH's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, focusing on increasing integration between substance use treatment providers and mental health treatment providers and increasing behavioral health services/access in a variety of settings including crisis services. A second pillar focused on driving innovation and improving outcomes, intends to expand evidence-based practices through cross-system engagement and planning and expand use of technology for improved behavioral health outcomes.

At present, the project is in an initial needs assessment phase, assessing the areas of greatest needs and prioritizing accordingly.

"The Nebraska Medical Association welcomes the opportunity to provide training and consultation to critical access hospitals and emergency departments, long-term care facilities, and other primary healthcare settings, and guide the leadership of behavioral health integration across the service continuum," said Amy Reynoldson, executive vice president of the Nebraska Medical Association, who is also working with board-certified psychiatrist Todd Stull on the project. "In rural Nebraska, many of our physicians are general practitioners, and we want to assist and encourage them to expand access to behavioral health. We are partnering with DHHS to develop the tools and competencies needed for success."

NMA will provide specialized training, competency development, and professional consultation to physicians and providers related to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in emergency care settings for non-opioid addictions; MAT for pregnant and post-partum women for non-opioid addictions; perform ongoing work related to expanding prescriber competencies and comfort in prescribing MAT in all other healthcare settings, and implementing integrated care along the continuum. Consultation will be available to prescribers and medical providers on demand, including mentoring, and NMA will travel to meet with providers in person, offer training, and provide onsite consultation as needed.

NMA will also provide staff resources to work with providers who are open to doing more behavioral health assessments but are not yet ready to transition to an integrated health model.

Need to talk or get immediate help in a crisis? Help is available. If you or a loved one need assistance, please reach out to:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English, 1-888-628-9454 para Español
- Your faith-based leader, your healthcare professional, or student health center on campus.
- Nebraska Family Helpline — Any question, any time. (888) 866-8660
- Rural Response Hotline: (800) 464-0258
- Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 (oprime dos para Español) or text TalkWithUs to 66746,
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Go to All News Releases

https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS,-Nebraska-Medical-Association-Team-Up-To-Develop-Behavioral-Health-Program.aspx

CONTACT
Julie Naughton, Office of Communications, (402) 471-1695 (office); (402) 405-7202 (cell);
Julie.Naughton@nebraska.gov
© 2022 Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
301 Centennial Mall South,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(402) 471-3121
TDD (800) 833-7352
This map will help you locate the type of treatment you need by state. This includes everything from a PTSD evaluation, substance misuse treatment, and outpatient or inpatient care. No matter your personal needs, there is a program that can help. Connect with treatment today to start your journey towards a healthy future.

MORE: https://www ptsd.va.gov/

Email Updates: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVHA/bulletins/3022541

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NEBRASKA
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BEGINNING JANUARY 1, NEW APPLICANTS FOR THE DAV, EX-POW, PURPLE HEART OR GOLD STAR FAMILY PLATES must first register with the Nebraska Veterans’ Registry. If you are interested in any military honor plates, be sure to apply to the Registry first at http://nebraska.gov/va_registry/

MILITARY & VETERANS’ REGISTRY APPLICATION
https://www.nebraska.gov/va_registry/index.cgi

NDVA 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 proved to be just as challenging of a year as 2020, with the continuing pandemic, worldwide staffing shortages, and plenty of other challenges. Here at team NDVA, however, we did not let that get in the way of our work and have several success stories from across the agency we would like to share. These are just a few of the great things we accomplished over the last year.

https://mailchi.mp/nebraska.gov/ndva-newsletter-december?e=64def6304a

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HOW TRICARE PHARMACY NETWORK CHANGES WILL AFFECT TRICARE FOR LIFE

By TRICARE Communications
FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Have you heard about the changes coming to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network starting Dec. 15? CVS Pharmacy is joining the network on that date. At the same time, Walmart, Sam’s Club, and some community pharmacies are leaving the network. If you’re a TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiary, you may be wondering how these changes affect the coverage of your current drugs. They don’t.

“There will be no changes to your overall TFL pharmacy coverage of the current drugs that you’re taking,” said Col. Markus Gmehlin, chief of the Pharmacy Operations Division at the Defense Health Agency.

“This change only affects some of the retail pharmacies in the TRICARE network.”

Here are some more details to help you navigate these changes.

More pharmacies available
CVS Pharmacy has nearly double the locations of pharmacies compared to Walmart and Sam’s Club. Other pharmacy chains, like Kroger, Rite Aid, and Walgreens, are still a part of the TRICARE network. This means 90% of beneficiaries will have access to a network pharmacy within five miles of their home. Three thousand community pharmacies are leaving the network. But more than 14,000 community pharmacies aren’t going anywhere.

Do you use special or limited distribution medication? Express Scripts recently added Accredo to the TRICARE network. Accredo is a specialty pharmacy. If you have a complex or chronic condition, this is one option that you can use. You can call 1-877-882-3324 to learn more about using Accredo.

You shouldn’t fill your prescriptions at a CVS pharmacy until Wednesday, Dec. 15. If a CVS pharmacy fills your prescription before that date, you’ll pay non-network copayments.

Several options for your prescriptions
Starting Dec. 15, if you choose to continue using Walmart or Sam’s Club, you’ll pay full price for your prescription up front. As detailed in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook, you can file a claim for partial reimbursement of the cost of your medication after you’ve met your deductible at non-network pharmacies.

To avoid these extra costs, you have several options. You can:

- Call your new pharmacy to transfer your prescription.
- Bring your prescription label to your new pharmacy.
- Bring your prescription label to your local military pharmacy for transfer to their system.
- Ask your doctor to write a new prescription and then send it electronically to the new military pharmacy.
- Ask your doctor to call the new pharmacy with your new prescription.
- Ask your doctor to send your prescription electronically to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery.
- Log in or register on the Express Scripts website to move your eligible prescriptions to home delivery.
Military pharmacies and home delivery have several advantages over retail network pharmacies. They are both lower cost options. Also, some brand-name maintenance medications can only be filled twice at retail pharmacies. After that, you must fill them at a military pharmacy or through home delivery.

2022 copayment increases not related to network changes
The pharmacy copayments will increase on Jan. 1. However, the increase isn’t related to these pharmacy network changes. Congress set the TRICARE pharmacy copayments in 2018 to increase every two years up to the year 2027. The last change to your copayments was in 2020.

Be sure to keep up with new information about your benefits by signing up for email updates from TRICARE. You can also go to Pharmacy to learn more about your coverage. And Express Scripts is available 24/7 to help answer your questions. Call 1-877-363-1303 to get assistance.

City of Papillion Municipal Government
VA Community Living Center

Here's a neat story on the CHI Health Midlands VA Community Living Center and its new healing pavilion project. #PapillionNow

Video
https://www.facebook.com/CityofPapillion/videos/4452214964901919/

Governor Ricketts Press Conference Video on Tax Relief for Nebraska
Gov. Pete Ricketts and other state officials held a news conference Thursday afternoon to review tax reforms they want prioritized in the 2022 legislative session.
Ricketts was joined by Chairwoman and State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, a fellow Republican, and members of the state’s revenue committee. They pledged to cut taxes with the $412 million in excess revenue the state has collected over the last year and continue to view income and property tax reductions as one of their top priorities in the 2022 session.

“When we have money in excess of what we need to fund State operations, we need to give it back to the people of Nebraska,” Ricketts said. “This money doesn’t belong to state government or the Legislature, it belongs to the hardworking people of our state.”

MORE:
https://www.wowt.com/2022/01/06/nebraska-officials-discuss-state-tax-reform-priorities/

The time an American battleship flooded itself…on purpose
https://www.wearethemighty.com/mighty-history/uss-texas-flooded-on-purpose/?fbclid=IwAR0TLyJBP6K3O6n9Cd7W9gFLOHSgnhxXDX9Nlf2DoU2BODXBPNip_4AGS4l

https://www.militaryonesource.mil/
1. Working With State Policymakers to Support Military Families
   Data, Research, and Statistics
   - Military Community Demographics
   - Survey Findings
   - Research Partners
   - Reports

Data, Research, and Statistics provided by Military OneSource connects you to important information about the military community, including survey results, infographics, research reports and demographics profiles. If you have an interest in quality-of-life and force-readiness issues, check back often for the latest research from the Department of Defense.

Military State Policy Source
Our team gives state policymakers an expert, trusted resource for insight on issues that affect military families. Count on us for reliable information and research, knowledge of policies and processes, and assistance with legislation — all to support service members and their families.

2022 Key Issues
- Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability
- Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access
Walz, Lindstrom introduce power package of bills
https://www.thebestmix1055.com/2022/01/07/walz-lindstrom-introduce-power-package-of-bills/

Gov. Ricketts, State Leaders Announce Proposals to Strengthen Water Resources

LB825 - Change provisions relating to the taxation of benefits received under the federal Social Security Act

Attention Nebraska and Western Iowa Veterans!
VANWHCS serves more than 54,000 Veterans in 101 counties of Nebraska, Western Iowa, Kansas, and Miss
(800) 451-5796

During this temporary policy change, please be aware that several visitation rules will be in effect,

Based upon our continued commitment to keep our Veterans safe while also continuing to provide Veterans with the care they need, please be aware that effective Friday, January 7, 2022, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System facilities will be shifting to a temporary “No Visitors” policy due to the current increase in the number of COVID-19 cases taking place within our local communities.

During this temporary policy change, please be aware that several visitation rules will be in effect, to include the following
https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaIowaVA

Visit Our Website
http://www.nebraskaveterans.org

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