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HOUSE BILL NO. 275

INTRODUCED BY S. KERNS, S. GUNDERSON, M. MALONE, F. ANDERSON, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, S. ESSMANN, M. CAFERRO, B. LER, R. MARSHALL, E. BUTTREY, D. LOGE, C. HINKLE, R. FITZGERALD, M. HOPKINS, J. BERGSTROM, B. BROWN, J. SMALL, S. FITZPATRICK, W. MCKAMEY, D. BARTEL, D. SALOMON, G. KMETZ, D. ZOLNIKOV, B. BARKER, J. LYNCH, J. KARLEN, L. DEMING, T. SMITH, E. BUTCHER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TOWNHALL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Veterans townhall meetings. (1) Prior to December 31, 2024, the board of veterans' affairs shall hold ~~six~~ five townhall meetings to:

- (a) provide a forum for veterans and their families to learn about the services and resources available in their own communities; and
- (b) educate the board of veterans' affairs on issues that are important to veterans and their families across the state.

(2) ~~The six five townhall meetings shall be divided equally in the following three areas: must be held in the five geographic regions referenced in 2-15-1205(2)(b)(i). There must be one meeting in each region.~~

~~(a) Billings and east of Billings;~~

~~(b) Great Falls and the high line; and~~

~~(c) the Rocky Mountains.~~

(3) The townhall meetings may be held in conjunction with a regular meeting of the board of veterans' affairs as long as the board allots sufficient time for public comment and participation.

(4) The townhall meetings must be held in free or low-cost venues, with preference given to halls of the American legion and the veterans of foreign wars.

(5) At least one veteran service officer from the region in which the townhall is being held shall

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Scot Kerns - (H) State Administration

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Rebecca Power,

HB0275.001.001

1 attend as a representative of the veterans' affairs division of the Montana department of military affairs to help
2 facilitate the townhall and to assist as needed.

3

4 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Termination. [This act] terminates December 31, 2024.

5

- END -

AMENDED