

Assisting Service Members While Deployed

In an effort to help service members who are part of the upcoming deployment, the House Veterans Affairs Committee passed a bill to ease their minds while deployed. The Iowa National Guard is preparing for the largest deployment, with over 3,000 members, in the 170 year history of the Iowa National Guard.

Senate File 2297 forbids a public utility providing gas or electricity from disconnecting services to a residence in which one of the heads of household is a service member deployed. This prohibition is in force for 90 days after the end of the service member's deployment. The public utility must be informed of the deployment.

In addition, the bill requires that a deployed service member will receive a refund of that portion of any fishing or hunting license fee paid by the service member that covers the service member's period of military service.

The Legislature has taken many steps over the past years to assist veterans, service members, and their families. The bill is now ready for consideration by the Iowa House.