

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Omnibus Motion

Motion:

Move to adopt the following provisions related to the Department of Veterans Affairs:

1. *Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program [LFB Issue Paper # 650]*. Adopt Alternatives A1, B1, and C1 which would do the following: (a) transfer \$548,600 SEG annually and 5.0 SEG positions, beginning in 2021-22, from the DVA appropriation for the administration of loans and aids and \$141,200 SEG annually and 1.75 SEG positions, beginning in 2021-22, from the appropriation for the veterans assistance program to the VORP appropriation (\$689,800 SEG annually and 6.75 SEG positions, beginning in 2021-22) to consolidate funding currently used for the VORP program in one DVA appropriation; (b) reduce funding by \$549,700 SEG in 2021-22 and \$666,300 SEG in 2022-23 for the veterans tuition reimbursement program and by \$150,000 SEG annually for the assistance to needy veterans program to reflect the administration's estimates of the amount needed to fully fund benefits and services supported by these appropriations; (c) provide \$599,700 SEG in 2021-22 and \$716,300 SEG in 2022-23 to support an additional 7.0 SEG positions, beginning in 2021-22, to increase staffing for VORP; (d) provide \$100,000 SEG annually, beginning in 2021-22, to fund suicide prevention and awareness activities and require DVA to expend at least \$100,000 annually under VORP to promote suicide prevention and awareness by providing outreach, mental health services, and support to individuals who are members of traditionally underserved population, including minority groups and individuals who reside in rural areas of the state. Increase funding in the appropriation for making a transfer from the general fund to the veterans trust fund by \$699,700 GPR in 2021-22 and \$716,300 GPR in 2022-23 to reflect the additional amount of the transfer needed to support additional expenditures under VORP and suicide prevention and awareness activities.

2. *Veterans Service Office Grants*. Provide \$38,100 SEG annually to increase, from \$761,000 to \$799,100, annual funding for DVA to award as grants to support county veterans service officers (CVOs). Increase the statutory annual grant amounts as follows: (a) for counties with a population of less than 20,000, from \$8,500 to \$8,925; (b) for counties with a population of 20,000 to 45,499, from \$10,000 to \$10,500; (c) for a county with a population of 45,500 to 74,999, from \$11,500 to \$12,075; and (d) for a county with a population of 75,000 or more, from \$13,000 to \$13,650. Increase from \$500 to \$525 the maximum annual grant amount DVA pays to eligible counties with a part-time CVSO. Increase from \$15,000 to \$15,750 the maximum annual grant amount DVA pays to eligible governing bodies of federally-recognized American Indian tribes and bands that employ tribal veteran's service officers (TVSOs) that provide veterans services to tribal members. Increase funding in the appropriation for making a transfer from the general fund to the veterans trust fund by \$38,100

GPR annually to reflect the additional amount of the transfer needed to support additional expenditures for CSVO grants.

3. *Chippewa Falls State Veterans Home Operations.* Provide \$400,000 PR annually to fund increases in the cost of the Department's contract with Health Dimensions Group to operate the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

4. *Veterans Home at King -- Transfer Base Funding to Unallotted Reserve.* Transfer \$10,000,000 PR annually in base funding budgeted for permanent position salaries (\$5,000,000), fringe benefits (\$2,510,500) and supplies and services (\$2,489,500) for the Veterans Home at King to unallotted reserve to reflect anticipated reductions in costs due to declining resident populations.

5. *Union Grove Assisted Living Facility Budget Authority and Positions.* Reduce funding by \$2,921,300 PR annually and delete 26.93 PR positions, beginning in 2021-22, to eliminate funding and position authority for the assisted living facility at the Union Grove state veterans home. DVA closed the 40-bed Union Grove assisted living facility in 2019-20 due to decreased demand and operating losses.

6. *Cemetery Staffing Consolidation.* Transfer \$355,500 SEG and 2.0 SEG positions that currently assist in the administration of the veterans memorial cemeteries but are funded from an appropriation that supports the administration of loans and aids, to a current appropriation that funds the administration and operation of the cemeteries, beginning in 2021-22.

Note:

This motion adopts provisions of the Governor's bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Change to Base: -\$1,745,400 (\$737,800 GPR, -\$2,521,300 PR, and \$38,100 SEG in 2021-22, -\$1,628,800 (\$854,400 GPR, -\$2,521,300 PR, and \$38.100 SFG) in 2022-23, an -19.93 positions (-19.93 PR and 7.0 SEG) annually,]

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BORN	Y	N	A
LOUDENBECK	Y	N	A
KATSMA	Y	N	A
ZIMMERMAN	Y	N	A
RODRIGUEZ	Y	N	A
KURTZ	Y	N	A
GOYKE	Y	N	A
NEUBAUER	Y	N	A
MARKLEIN	Y	N	A
STROEBEL	Y	N	A
KOOYENGA	Y	N	A
FELZKOWSKI	Y	N	A
BERNIER	Y	N	A
BALLWEG	Y	N	A
ERPENBACH	Y	N	A
JOHNSON	Y	N	A

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