

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Trust Fund and State Veterans Homes
[LFB Paper #655]

Motion:

Move to adopt the following:

Committee Review of Transfers to the Veterans Trust Fund. Modify a current statutory provision that authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to transfer unencumbered program revenue balances from state veterans homes program revenue appropriations to the veterans trust fund by prohibiting a transfer unless the transfer is approved by the Joint Committee on Finance under a 14-day passive review process.

Report on DVA Administration and Veterans Trust Fund Solvency. Require DVA to prepare a report that contains the following: (a) a description and analysis of the Department's administrative costs supported by the veterans trust fund and state veterans homes revenue; (b) proposes any changes to Department programs, administrative structure, or position levels and salaries to increase efficiency or lower administrative costs; and (c) proposes two long-term plans to maintain the solvency of the veterans trust fund, one of which allows for transfers from the state veterans homes and one of which uses no such transfers. Require the Department to submit the report to the Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 2018.

Legislative Audit Bureau Recommendations. Require DVA to do all the following to implement recommendations contained in the Legislative Audit Bureau's Report 17-8 relating to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King:

- Submit proposed changes to VA 6 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code to include a formula for calculating private pay rates for nursing home and assisted living care at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes and to clearly define rate-setting terms, including "costs of care." Require the Department to submit draft rules by July 1, 2018.
- Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 2018, on the following: (a) the cash balance in the state veterans home PR appropriation account that it believes is appropriate to maintain; and (b) its efforts to develop, and routinely update, a detailed plan for the management and proposed use of the cash balance in the account.
- Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 2018, on its efforts to: (a) establish a systematic process for comprehensively

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identifying and assessing the capital-related project needs for all Wisconsin Veterans Homes; and (b) the use of this information to complete a ten-year facilities plan for the Wisconsin Veterans Homes and to help develop its required six-year facilities plans in the future.

Note:

This motion would require DVA to seek approval of the Joint Committee on Finance, under a 14-day passive review process, prior to making transfers of unencumbered revenue in the program revenue appropriation account for the state veterans homes to the veterans trust fund. Under the 14-day passive review process, the Committee can approve the request without meeting, or can hold a meeting under s. 13.10 of the statutes to approve, modify and approve, or reject the request.

In addition, this motion would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to comply with the Legislative Audit Bureau's recommendations with respect to its recent audit of the King Home. In addition, it would require the Department to prepare a report for the Joint Committee on Finance on its administrative costs and the long-term status of the veterans trust fund.