

# SENATE BILL No. 1155

## EXECUTIVE BUDGET BILL

February 28, 2008, Introduced by Senators BARCIA and SWITALSKI and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009; to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations; to provide for certain powers and duties of the department of military and veterans affairs, other state agencies, and local units of government related to the appropriations; and to provide for the preparation of certain reports related to the appropriations.

### THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

#### PART 1

#### LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Subject to the conditions set forth in this bill, the amounts listed in this part are appropriated for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, from the funds indicated in this part. The  
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OSB

1 following is a summary of the appropriations in this part:

2 **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3 APPROPRIATION SUMMARY:

4	Full-time equated unclassified positions.....	7.0	
5	Full-time equated classified positions.....	985.0	
6	GROSS APPROPRIATION.....		\$ 130,388,700
7	Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
8	Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental		
9	transfers .....		1,681,200
10	ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION.....		\$ 128,707,500
11	Federal revenues:		
12	Total federal revenues.....		57,538,200
13	Special revenue funds:		
14	Total local revenues.....		1,284,600
15	Total private revenues.....		1,463,700
16	Total other state restricted revenues.....		28,300,400
17	State general fund/general purpose.....		\$ 40,120,600
18	<b>Sec. 102. HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES</b>		
19	Full-time equated unclassified positions.....	7.0	
20	Full-time equated classified positions.....	125.0	
21	Headquarters and armories--85.0 FTE positions.....		\$ 10,484,100
22	Unclassified military personnel.....		665,000
23	Military appeals tribunal.....		900
24	Michigan emergency volunteers.....		5,000
25	State active duty.....		90,100
26	Challenge program--40.0 FTE positions.....		4,698,800
27	Homeland security.....		1,000,000

1	Military family relief fund.....	600,000
2	Internal audit services.....	<u>111,700</u>
3	GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$ 17,655,600
4	Appropriated from:	
5	Interdepartmental grant revenues:	
6	IDG, challenge grant.....	260,100
7	IDG, community health.....	100,000
8	IDG, state police.....	900,000
9	IDG, human services.....	421,100
10	Federal revenues:	
11	DOD-DOA-NGB.....	5,206,000
12	Special revenue funds:	
13	Local - school aid fund.....	1,284,600
14	Private donations.....	820,100
15	Private - parent pay revenue.....	103,600
16	Rental fees.....	350,000
17	Mackinac Bridge authority.....	60,000
18	Military family relief fund.....	600,000
19	State general fund/general purpose.....	\$ 7,550,100
20	<b>Sec. 103. MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT</b>	
21	<b>FACILITIES</b>	
22	Full-time equated classified positions.....	181.0
23	Military training sites and support	
24	facilities--181.0 FTE positions.....	\$ 24,508,200
25	Military training sites and support facilities test	
26	projects .....	<u>100,000</u>
27	GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$ 24,608,200

1	Appropriated from:	
2	Federal revenues:	
3	DOD-DOA-NGB.....	20,801,000
4	Special revenue funds:	
5	Regional training institute fund.....	1,504,000
6	Test project fees.....	100,000
7	State general fund/general purpose.....	\$ 2,203,200
8	<b>Sec. 104. DEPARTMENTWIDE APPROPRIATIONS</b>	
9	Departmentwide accounts.....	\$ 2,059,400
10	Special maintenance - state.....	651,200
11	Special maintenance - federal.....	5,300,000
12	Military retirement.....	3,217,500
13	Counter narcotic operations.....	50,000
14	Starbase grant.....	<u>1,772,000</u>
15	GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$ 13,050,100
16	Appropriated from:	
17	Federal revenues:	
18	DOD-DOA-NGB.....	8,738,100
19	Federal counter narcotic revenues.....	50,000
20	Special revenue funds:	
21	State general fund/general purpose.....	\$ 4,262,000
22	<b>Sec. 105. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
23	American legion.....	\$ 886,000
24	Disabled American veterans.....	732,400
25	Marine corps league.....	336,300
26	American veterans of World War II and Korea.....	464,800
27	Veterans of foreign wars.....	886,000

1	Michigan paralyzed veterans of America .....	165,700
2	Purple heart .....	157,900
3	Veterans of World War I .....	100
4	Polish legion of American veterans .....	41,200
5	Jewish veterans of America .....	41,200
6	State of Michigan council - Vietnam veterans of	
7	America .....	159,500
8	Catholic war veterans .....	<u>41,200</u>
9	GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$ 3,912,300
10	Appropriated from:	
11	Special revenue funds:	
12	State general fund/general purpose .....	\$ 3,912,300
13	<b>Sec. 106. GRAND RAPIDS VETERANS' HOME</b>	
14	Full-time equated classified positions .....	513.0
15	Grand Rapids veterans' home--513.0 FTE positions .....	\$ 48,115,700
16	Board of managers .....	<u>665,000</u>
17	GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$ 48,780,700
18	Appropriated from:	
19	Federal revenues:	
20	DVA-VHA .....	15,570,400
21	HHS, Medicaid .....	154,300
22	HHS, Medicare .....	1,557,500
23	Special revenue funds:	
24	Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds ...	415,000
25	Income and assessments .....	14,703,900
26	Military family relief fund .....	250,000
27	Lease revenue .....	12,200

1	State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	16,117,400
2	<b>Sec. 107. D.J. JACOBETTI VETERANS' HOME</b>		
3	Full-time equated classified positions.....		158.0
4	D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home--158.0 FTE positions ...	\$	15,612,400
5	Board of managers .....		<u>275,000</u>
6	GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	15,887,400
7	Appropriated from:		
8	Federal revenues:		
9	DVA-VHA .....		4,504,400
10	HHS, Medicare .....		500,300
11	HHS, Medicaid .....		10,200
12	Special revenue funds:		
13	Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds ...		125,000
14	Military family relief fund .....		150,000
15	Income and assessments .....		5,265,700
16	State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	5,331,800
17	<b>Sec. 108. VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE</b>		
18	Full-time equated classified positions.....		8.0
19	Veterans' affairs directorate administration--2.0		
20	FTE positions .....	\$	338,200
21	Veterans' trust fund administration--6.0 FTE		
22	positions .....		1,225,900
23	Veterans' trust fund grants .....		<u>3,746,500</u>
24	GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	5,310,600
25	Appropriated from:		
26	Special revenue funds:		
27	Michigan veterans' trust fund .....		4,972,400

1	State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	338,200
2	<b>Sec. 109. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>		
3	Information technology services and projects .....	\$	<u>1,183,800</u>
4	GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	1,183,800
5	Appropriated from:		
6	Federal revenues:		
7	DOD-DOA-NGB .....		116,900
8	DVA-VHA .....		319,700
9	HHS, Medicare .....		9,400
10	Special revenue funds:		
11	Income and assessments .....		332,200
12	State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	405,600

13 PART 2

14 PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

15 **GENERAL SECTIONS**

16 Sec. 201. Pursuant to section 30 of article IX of the state

17 constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources

18 under part 1 for fiscal year 2008-2009 is \$68,421,000.00 and state

19 spending from state resources to be paid to local units of

20 government for fiscal year 2008-2009 is \$120,000.00. The itemized

21 statement below identifies appropriations from which spending to

22 local units of government will occur:

23 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

24 MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

25	Payments in lieu of taxes .....	\$	70,000
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1 MICHIGAN VETERANS' TRUST FUND

2	County counselor travel expenses .....	\$	<u>50,000</u>
3	TOTAL .....	\$	120,000

4 Sec. 202. The appropriations authorized under this bill are  
 5 subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101  
 6 to 18.1594.

7 Sec. 203. As used in this bill:

8 (a) "Department" means the department of military and veterans  
 9 affairs.

10 (b) "Director" means the director of the department of  
 11 military and veterans affairs.

12 (c) "DOD" means the United States department of defense.

13 (d) "DOD-DOA-NGB" means the DOD department of the army,  
 14 national guard bureau.

15 (e) "DVA" means the United States department of veterans'  
 16 affairs.

17 (f) "DVA-VHA" means the DVA veterans' health administration.

18 (g) "FTE" means full-time equated.

19 (h) "HHS" means the United States department of health and  
 20 human services.

21 (i) "IDG" means interdepartmental grant.

22 Sec. 204. The civil service commission shall bill departments  
 23 and agencies at the end of the first fiscal quarter for the 1%  
 24 charge authorized by section 5 of article XI of the state  
 25 constitution of 1963. Payments shall be made for the total amount  
 26 of the billing by the end of the second fiscal quarter.

27 Sec. 205. (1) A hiring freeze is imposed on the state



1 classified civil service. State departments and agencies are  
2 prohibited from hiring any new full-time state classified civil  
3 service employees and prohibited from filling any vacant state  
4 classified civil service positions. This hiring freeze does not  
5 apply to internal transfers of classified employees from 1 position  
6 to another within a department.

7 (2) The state budget director may grant exceptions to this  
8 hiring freeze when the state budget director believes that the  
9 hiring freeze will result in rendering a state department or agency  
10 unable to deliver basic services, cause loss of revenue to the  
11 state, result in the inability of the state to receive federal  
12 funds, or necessitate additional expenditures that exceed any  
13 savings from maintaining a vacancy. The state budget director shall  
14 report quarterly to the chairpersons of the senate and house of  
15 representatives standing committees on appropriations the number of  
16 exceptions to the hiring freeze approved during the previous  
17 quarter and the reasons to justify the exception.

18 Sec. 208. The department shall use the Internet to fulfill the  
19 reporting requirements of this bill. This requirement may include  
20 transmission of reports via electronic mail to the recipients  
21 identified for each reporting requirement, or it may include  
22 placement of reports on an Internet or Intranet site.

23 Sec. 209. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for  
24 the purchase of foreign goods or services, or both, if  
25 competitively priced and of comparable quality American goods or  
26 services, or both, are available. Preference shall be given to  
27 goods or services, or both, manufactured or provided by Michigan

1 businesses, if they are competitively priced and of comparable  
2 quality. In addition, preference shall be given to goods or  
3 services, or both, that are manufactured or provided by Michigan  
4 businesses owned and operated by veterans, if they are  
5 competitively priced and of comparable quality.

6 Sec. 210. The director shall take all reasonable steps to  
7 ensure businesses in deprived and depressed communities compete for  
8 and perform contracts to provide services or supplies, or both. The  
9 director shall strongly encourage firms with which the department  
10 contracts to subcontract with certified businesses in depressed and  
11 deprived communities for services, supplies, or both.

12 Sec. 212. (1) Of the funds appropriated in part 1 for military  
13 training sites and support facilities, there shall be established a  
14 Michigan national guard education assistance program. Disbursements  
15 to the educational assistance program shall not exceed  
16 \$1,100,000.00 without legislative approval. Under the program, a  
17 member of the national guard who is in active service and who  
18 enrolls as a full- or part-time student at a public or private  
19 state college or university may be eligible to receive up to an  
20 equivalent of 50% of the total cost of tuition not to exceed  
21 \$2,000.00, as education assistance, in any academic year.

22 (2) As used in this section, an eligible person means a member  
23 of the Michigan national guard who is in active service, as defined  
24 in section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL  
25 32.505. An eligible person does not include a member of the  
26 Michigan national guard or air national guard who is absent without  
27 leave or who is under charges as described in the Michigan code of

1 military justice of 1980, 1980 PA 523, MCL 32.1001 to 32.1148.

2 (3) The department of military and veterans affairs, office of  
3 the adjutant general shall administer the education assistance  
4 program and prescribe forms and procedures to effectively carry out  
5 the education assistance program.

6 (4) An eligible person shall apply to the department of  
7 military and veterans affairs, office of the adjutant general for  
8 education assistance and shall provide evidence of attendance and  
9 completion of the course of study with a grade of at least 2.0 on a  
10 4.0 scale, or its equivalent. The adjutant general shall approve  
11 the application for reimbursement if the applicant meets the  
12 definition of an eligible person under subsection (2) and other  
13 criteria as established by the adjutant general.

14 (5) The education assistance program applies to any course of  
15 instruction that is included in an associate, undergraduate, or  
16 postgraduate degree program offered by a college or university of  
17 this state.

18 (6) The education assistance program applies to an eligible  
19 person notwithstanding any other educational incentive or benefit  
20 received by the eligible person under any other educational  
21 assistance program provided by any other state.

22 (7) An eligible person who successfully completes the course  
23 of study with a grade of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its  
24 equivalent, shall be eligible for reimbursement.

25 (8) The department of military and veterans affairs may use  
26 funds from the appropriated funds to administer the education  
27 assistance program.

1           (9) Reimbursed members who do not complete their national  
2 guard obligation shall pay the state for money received from the  
3 state for tuition. Members who fail to repay the state within the  
4 time limits established by the adjutant general shall be indebted  
5 to the state. The department shall work in conjunction with the  
6 department of treasury for inclusion in the tax intercept program  
7 for amounts due the state.

8           (10) A portion of the funds for the Michigan national guard  
9 education assistance program may be used by the department for the  
10 purpose of promoting the program and for encouraging those persons  
11 the department wishes to have enlist or reenlist in the Michigan  
12 national guard.

13           Sec. 221. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for  
14 information technology, departments and agencies shall pay user  
15 fees to the department of information technology for technology-  
16 related services and projects. Such user fees shall be subject to  
17 provisions of an interagency agreement between the departments and  
18 agencies and the department of information technology.

19           Sec. 223. Amounts appropriated in part 1 for information  
20 technology may be designated as work projects and carried forward  
21 to support technology projects under the direction of the  
22 department of information technology. Funds designated in this  
23 manner are not available for expenditure until approved as work  
24 projects under section 451a of the management and budget act, 1984  
25 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a.

26           Sec. 225. (1) Due to the current budgetary problems in this  
27 state, out-of-state travel for the fiscal year ending September 30,

1 2009 shall be limited to situations in which 1 or more of the  
2 following conditions apply:

3 (a) The travel is required by legal mandate or court order or  
4 for law enforcement purposes.

5 (b) The travel is necessary to protect the health or safety of  
6 Michigan citizens or visitors or to assist other states in similar  
7 circumstances.

8 (c) The travel is necessary to produce budgetary savings or to  
9 increase state revenues, including protecting existing federal  
10 funds or securing additional federal funds.

11 (d) The travel is necessary to comply with federal  
12 requirements.

13 (e) The travel is necessary to secure specialized training for  
14 staff that is not available within this state.

15 (f) The travel is financed entirely by federal or nonstate  
16 funds.

17 (2) If out-of-state travel is necessary but does not meet 1 or  
18 more of the conditions in subsection (1), the state budget director  
19 may grant an exception to allow the travel. Any exceptions granted  
20 by the state budget director shall be reported on a monthly basis  
21 to the senate and house of representatives standing committees on  
22 appropriations.

23 (3) Not later than January 1 of each year, each department  
24 shall prepare a travel report listing all travel by classified and  
25 unclassified employees outside this state in the immediately  
26 preceding fiscal year that was funded in whole or in part with  
27 funds appropriated in the department's budget. The report shall be

1 submitted to the senate and house of representatives standing  
2 committees on appropriations, the senate and house fiscal agencies,  
3 and the state budget director. The report shall include the  
4 following information:

5 (a) The name of each person receiving reimbursement for travel  
6 outside this state or whose travel costs were paid by this state.

7 (b) The destination of each travel occurrence.

8 (c) The dates of each travel occurrence.

9 (d) A brief statement of the reason for each travel  
10 occurrence.

11 (e) The transportation and related costs of each travel  
12 occurrence, including the proportion funded with state general  
13 fund/general purpose revenues, the proportion funded with state  
14 restricted revenues, the proportion funded with federal revenues,  
15 and the proportion funded with other revenues.

16 (f) A total of all out-of-state travel funded for the  
17 immediately preceding fiscal year.

18 Sec. 228. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by a  
19 principal executive department, state agency, or authority to hire  
20 a person to provide legal services that are the responsibility of  
21 the attorney general. This prohibition does not apply to legal  
22 services for bonding activities and for those activities that the  
23 attorney general authorizes.

24 Sec. 229. There is hereby created and established under the  
25 jurisdiction and control of the department a revolving account to  
26 be known as the regional training institute conference center  
27 account. All of the fees and other revenues generated from the

1 operation of the regional training institute conference center  
2 shall be deposited in the regional training institute conference  
3 center account. Appropriations shall be made from the account for  
4 the support of program operations and the maintenance and  
5 operations of the regional training institute, the construction and  
6 maintenance of morale, welfare, and recreation facilities on Fort  
7 Custer or training areas within Michigan, and shall not exceed the  
8 estimated revenues for the fiscal year in which they are made,  
9 together with unexpended balances from prior years. The department  
10 shall submit an annual report of operations and expenditures  
11 regarding the regional training institute conference center account  
12 to the senate and house of representatives standing committees on  
13 appropriations, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state  
14 budget director at the end of the fiscal year.

15 Sec. 230. The regional training institute conference center  
16 shall be available but not limited to the following:

- 17 (a) Military personnel.
- 18 (b) Federal, state, and local government agencies.
- 19 (c) Educational institutions.
- 20 (d) Nonprofit corporations or associations organized pursuant  
21 to the nonprofit corporation act, 1982 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 to  
22 450.3192.
- 23 (e) Community service clubs.
- 24 (f) Groups of persons with disabilities.
- 25 (g) Members of the legislature for the purposes related to the  
26 business of the legislature.
- 27 (h) Entities and organizations that wish to use the conference

center to host an event that has a military agenda.

Sec. 232. (1) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 for federal contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item in this bill under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

(2) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 for state restricted contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item in this bill under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

(3) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for local contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item in this bill under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

(4) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for private contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item in this bill under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

#### HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES



1       Sec. 302. (1) The funds appropriated in this bill for private  
2 donations to the challenge program shall be considered state  
3 restricted revenue, and unexpended funds remaining at the close of  
4 the fiscal year shall not lapse to the general fund but shall be  
5 carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year.

6       (2) The department may charge a parent or guardian of a  
7 participant in the challenge program a fee for participating in the  
8 program if the participant is a member of a family with an income  
9 that exceeds 200% of the federal poverty guidelines as published by  
10 the United States department of health and human services. The  
11 amount charged the parent or guardian shall not exceed the per-  
12 student state share cost of administering the program. The parent  
13 or guardian shall be notified of any charge to be assessed under  
14 this subsection prior to enrollment of the child in the program.

15       (3) The department shall take steps to insure that at least  
16 75% of the participants in the ChalleNGe program are members of  
17 families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty  
18 level.

19       Sec. 304. The department shall partner with the department of  
20 human services to identify youth who may be eligible for the  
21 challenge program from those youth served by department of human  
22 services programs. These eligible youth shall be given priority for  
23 enrollment in the program.

#### 24    VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

25       Sec. 501. (1) Money appropriated in part 1 for grants to  
26 veterans service organizations shall be used only for salaries,

1 wages, related personnel costs, training, and equipment for  
2 accredited veteran service advocacy officers and necessary support  
3 and managerial staff. Training shall be provided for service  
4 advocacy officers and shall be conducted by accredited advocacy  
5 officers.

6 (2) To receive a grant from the money appropriated in part 1,  
7 a veterans service organization shall meet the following  
8 eligibility requirements:

9 (a) Be congressionally chartered by the United States  
10 congress.

11 (b) Be an active participating member of the Michigan veterans  
12 organizations' rehabilitation and veterans service committee and  
13 abide by its rules, guidelines, and programs.

14 (c) Demonstrate the receipt of monetary or service support  
15 from its own organization.

16 (d) Comply with the department's and the legislature's  
17 requirements of accounting audits, service work activity,  
18 accounting of recoveries, listing of volunteer hours, budget  
19 requests, and other requirements specified in subsection (3).

20 (e) For a veterans service organization founded after  
21 September 30, 1989, be in operation and providing service to  
22 Michigan veterans for not less than 2 years before receiving an  
23 initial state grant. During this 2-year period of time, the  
24 organization shall file a listing of service work activity and an  
25 accounting of recoveries with the department, the senate and house  
26 fiscal agencies, the senate and house of representatives  
27 appropriations subcommittees on military affairs, and the state

1 budget office on forms as prescribed by the department.

2 (3) A veterans service organization receiving a grant from the  
3 money appropriated in part 1 shall file with the department an  
4 accounting of its expenditures, audited and certified by a  
5 certified public accountant, within 120 days after the  
6 organization's fiscal year end. Each organization shall provide a  
7 detailed budget request for the fiscal year ending September 30,  
8 2010 to the department by November 15, 2008. Each veterans service  
9 organization shall provide 5 copies of a listing of all service  
10 activity, an accounting of recoveries, and a listing of volunteer  
11 hours for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 to the  
12 department by January 31, 2009. The listing of volunteer hours  
13 shall include the hours, services, and donations provided to  
14 residents of the Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J. Jacobetti  
15 veterans' home. Each veterans service organization shall provide a  
16 copy of the most recent and completed internal revenue service form  
17 990 to the department at the end of the fiscal year ending  
18 September 30, 2008. A veterans service organization receiving a  
19 grant from the money appropriated in part 1 shall use the forms  
20 recommended by the Michigan veterans organizations rehabilitation  
21 and veterans service committee for filing reports required by this  
22 bill. The department shall forward information required under this  
23 section to the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and  
24 house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on military  
25 affairs, and the state budget office.

26 (4) The veterans service directors committee and the  
27 department shall take steps to improve the coordination of veterans

1 benefits counseling in the state to maximize the effective and  
2 efficient use of taxpayer dollars in this goal and to ensure that  
3 every veteran is served.

4 (5) To accomplish the goal of subsection (4), the veterans  
5 service directors committee and the department shall take steps to  
6 increase their responsibility in the administration, management,  
7 oversight, and outreach of the delivery of services to veterans.  
8 The veterans service directors committee and the department shall  
9 involve county veterans counselors and representatives from the  
10 Michigan veterans trust fund to work in concert to identify,  
11 implement, and evaluate steps to do all of the following:

12 (a) Increase the veterans service directors committee and the  
13 department's role in working directly with the United States  
14 department of veterans' affairs to enhance the delivery of services  
15 to Michigan veterans.

16 (b) Increase the number of initial claims filed with the  
17 United States department of veterans' affairs on behalf of veterans  
18 for service-connected disability or pension benefits. The veterans  
19 service directors committee and the department may work toward  
20 either an absolute increase of approved claims or an increase in  
21 the percentage of Michigan veterans with approved claims.

22 (c) Develop methods to increase rates of recovery paid by the  
23 United States department of veterans' affairs to Michigan veterans  
24 either by an increase in compensation paid per approved claim or  
25 increase in compensation paid on a per capita basis.

26 (d) Expand training opportunities for veterans service  
27 organization service officers.

1 (e) Increase either the number or percentage of Michigan  
2 veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.

3 (f) Publicize the availability, benefit, and value of burial  
4 in the Fort Custer and Great Lakes national cemeteries.

5 (g) Review each grant recipient's performance under the  
6 program and require that performance be a major consideration in  
7 the future funding of each grant recipient.

8 (h) Identify areas of redundancy which may exist among  
9 services provided by veterans service organizations grantees,  
10 Michigan veterans trust fund county committees, and county veterans  
11 counselors and provide a proposal on how any redundancies may be  
12 minimized and identify specific cost savings which could result.

### 13 VETERANS' HOMES

14 Sec. 603. The money appropriated in this bill for the boards  
15 of managers may be expended for facility improvements, the purchase  
16 and repair of equipment and furnishings, member services, and other  
17 purposes that benefit the Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J.  
18 Jacobetti veterans' home.

### 19 VETERANS' TRUST FUND

20 Sec. 703. By April 1, 2009, the department shall submit to the  
21 senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on  
22 military affairs and the state budget office a detailed annual  
23 report of the Michigan veterans' trust fund for fiscal year 2007-  
24 2008. The report shall include information on grants provided from  
25 the emergency grant program, including details concerning the

1 methodology of allocations, the selection of emergency grant  
2 program authorized agents, and a detailed breakdown of trust fund  
3 expenditures for that year. The report shall also provide an update  
4 on the department's efforts to reduce program administrative costs  
5 and restore the Michigan veterans' trust fund corpus to its  
6 original amount of \$50,000,000.00.