

Act No. 214
Public Acts of 2008
Approved by the Governor
July 15, 2008
Filed with the Secretary of State
July 16, 2008
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 16, 2008

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
94TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

Introduced by Rep. LeBlanc

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5812

AN ACT 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 act, 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 following is a summary of the appropriations in this part:

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY:

Full-time equated unclassified positions	7.0	
Full-time equated classified positions	985.0	
GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 183,807,900
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		1,681,200
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 182,126,700
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		109,988,200
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		1,284,600
Total private revenues		1,463,700
Total other state restricted revenues		29,050,400
State general fund/general purpose		\$ 40,339,800

Sec. 102. HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES

Full-time equated unclassified positions	7.0	
Full-time equated classified positions	125.0	
Headquarters and armories—85.0 FTE positions		\$ 10,430,000
Unclassified military personnel		665,000
Military appeals tribunal		900
Michigan emergency volunteers		5,000
State active duty		90,100
Challenge program—40.0 FTE positions		4,698,800
Homeland security		1,000,000
Internal audit services		111,700
Military family relief fund		600,000
War veteran's memorial rehabilitation		5,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 17,606,500
Appropriated from:		
IDG, challenge grant		260,100
IDG, community health		100,000
IDG, state police		900,000
IDG, human services		421,100
Federal revenues:		
DOD-DOA-NGB		5,206,000
Special revenue funds:		
Local - school aid fund		1,284,600
Rental fees		350,000
Mackinac Bridge authority		60,000
Private donations		820,100
Military family relief fund		600,000
Private - parent pay revenue		103,600
State general fund/general purpose		\$ 7,501,000

Sec. 103. MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

Full-time equated classified positions	181.0	
Military training sites and support facilities—181.0 FTE positions		\$ 24,728,200
Military training sites and support facilities test projects		100,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 24,828,200
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DOD-DOA-NGB		20,801,000
Special revenue funds:		
Regional training institute fund		1,504,000
Test project fees		100,000
State general fund/general purpose		\$ 2,423,200

Sec. 104. DEPARTMENTWIDE APPROPRIATIONS

Departmentwide accounts		\$ 2,024,400
Special maintenance - state		651,200
Special maintenance - federal		5,300,000
Military retirement		3,217,500
Counter narcotic operations		50,000
Starbase grant		1,772,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 13,015,100
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DOD-DOA-NGB		8,738,100
Federal counter narcotic revenues		50,000
State general fund/general purpose		\$ 4,227,000

Sec. 105. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

American legion	\$	912,600
Disabled American veterans.....		754,400
Marine corps league		346,400
American veterans of World War II and Korea.....		478,700
Veterans of foreign wars.....		912,600
Michigan paralyzed veterans of America.....		170,700
Purple heart.....		162,600
Veterans of World War I.....		100
Polish legion of American veterans.....		42,400
Jewish veterans of America.....		42,400
State of Michigan council - Vietnam veterans of America.....		164,300
Catholic war veterans.....		42,400
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	4,029,600
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	\$	4,029,600

Sec. 106. GRAND RAPIDS VETERANS' HOME

Full-time equated classified positions.....	513.0	
Grand Rapids veterans' home—513.0 FTE positions	\$	47,951,700
Board of managers		665,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	48,616,700
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DVA-VHA		15,570,400
HHS, Medicaid		154,300
HHS, Medicare.....		1,557,500
Special revenue funds:		
Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds		415,000
Income and assessments		14,703,900
Military family relief fund.....		250,000
Lease revenue		12,200
State general fund/general purpose	\$	15,953,400

Sec. 107. D.J. JACOBETTI VETERANS' HOME

Full-time equated classified positions.....	158.0	
D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home—158.0 FTE positions	\$	15,559,400
Board of managers		275,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	15,834,400
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DVA-VHA		4,504,400
HHS, Medicare.....		500,300
HHS, Medicaid		10,200
Special revenue funds:		
Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds		125,000
Military family relief fund.....		150,000
Income and assessments		5,515,700
State general fund/general purpose	\$	5,028,800

Sec. 108. VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

Full-time equated classified positions.....	8.0	
Veterans' affairs directorate administration—2.0 FTE positions	\$	321,200
Veterans' trust fund administration—6.0 FTE positions.....		1,225,900
Veterans' trust fund grants.....		3,746,500
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	5,293,600
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Michigan veterans' trust fund		4,972,400
State general fund/general purpose	\$	321,200

For Fiscal Year
Ending Sept. 30,
2009

Sec. 109. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information technology services and projects.....	\$	1,183,800
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	1,183,800
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DOD-DOA-NGB.....		116,900
DVA-VHA		319,700
HHS, Medicare.....		9,400
Special revenue funds:		
Income and assessments		332,200
State general fund/general purpose	\$	405,600

Sec. 110. CAPITAL OUTLAY

Special maintenance, remodeling and additions.....	\$	12,900,000
Land acquisitions and appraisals statewide.....		500,000
Camp Grayling, military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) training course construction		40,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	53,400,000
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
DOD-DOA-NGB.....		52,450,000
Special revenue funds:		
Armory construction fund.....		500,000
State general fund/general purpose	\$	450,000

PART 2

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 201. Pursuant to section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources under part 1 for fiscal year 2008-2009 is \$69,390,200.00 and state spending from state resources to be paid to local units of government for fiscal year 2008-2009 is \$120,000.00. The itemized statement below identifies appropriations from which spending to local units of government will occur:

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

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

County counselor education and training expenses	\$	50,000
TOTAL	\$	120,000

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

Sec. 203. As used in this act:

- (a) "Department" means the department of military and veterans affairs.
- (b) "Director" means the director of the department of military and veterans affairs.
- (c) "DOD" means the United States department of defense.
- (d) "DOD-DOA-NGB" means the DOD department of the army, national guard bureau.
- (e) "DVA" means the United States department of veterans' affairs.
- (f) "DVA-VHA" means the DVA veterans' health administration.
- (g) "FTE" means full-time equated.

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

(i) "IDG" means interdepartmental grant.

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

Sec. 205. (1) A hiring freeze is imposed on the state classified civil service. State departments and agencies are prohibited from hiring any new full-time state classified civil service employees and prohibited from filling any vacant state classified civil service positions. This hiring freeze does not apply to internal transfers of classified employees from 1 position to another within a department.

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

Sec. 207. Sixty days before beginning any effort to privatize, the department shall submit a complete project plan to the appropriate senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees and the senate and house fiscal agencies. The plan shall include the criteria under which the privatization initiative will be evaluated. The evaluation shall be completed and submitted to the appropriate senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees and the senate and house fiscal agencies within 30 months.

Sec. 208. Unless otherwise specified, the department shall use the Internet to fulfill the reporting requirements of this act. This requirement may include transmission of reports via electronic mail to the recipients identified for each reporting requirement or it may include placement of reports on an Internet or Intranet site.

Sec. 209. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for the purchase of foreign goods or services, or both, if competitively priced and of comparable quality American goods or services, or both, are available. Preference should be given to goods or services, or both, manufactured or provided by Michigan businesses, if they are competitively priced and of comparable quality. In addition, preference should be given to goods or services, or both, that are manufactured or provided by Michigan businesses owned and operated by veterans, if they are competitively priced and of comparable quality.

Sec. 210. The director of each department receiving appropriations in part 1 shall take all reasonable steps to ensure businesses in deprived and depressed communities compete for and perform contracts to provide services or supplies, or both. Each director shall strongly encourage firms with which the department contracts to subcontract with certified businesses in depressed and deprived communities for services, supplies, or both.

Sec. 211. The departments and agencies receiving appropriations in part 1 shall receive and retain copies of all reports funded from appropriations in part 1. The department shall follow all federal guidelines and state laws regarding short-term and long-term retention of records.

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

(2) As used in this section, an eligible person means a member of the Michigan national guard who is in active service, as defined in section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505. An eligible person does not include a member of the Michigan national guard or air national guard who is absent without leave or who is under charges as described in the Michigan code of military justice of 1980, 1980 PA 523, MCL 32.1001 to 32.1148.

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

(4) An eligible person shall apply to the department of military and veterans affairs, office of the adjutant general for education assistance and shall provide evidence of attendance and completion of the course of study with a grade of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent. The adjutant general shall approve the application for reimbursement if the

applicant meets the definition of an eligible person under subsection (2) and other criteria as established by the adjutant general.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 213. The department shall consult with the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on military and veterans affairs regarding the projected closing or consolidation of any national guard armories.

Sec. 214. It is the intent of the legislature that, should the necessary legislation be enacted and funding become available, funds be appropriated for state military cemeteries in Crawford and Dickinson counties.

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

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

Sec. 225. (1) Due to the current budgetary problems in this state, out-of-state travel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009 shall be limited to situations in which 1 or more of the following conditions apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Not later than January 1 of each year, each department shall prepare a travel report listing all travel by classified and unclassified employees outside this state in the immediately preceding fiscal year that was funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated in the department's budget. The report shall be submitted to the chairs and members of the senate and house of representatives standing committees on appropriations, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The report shall include the following information:

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

(b) The destination of each travel occurrence.

(c) The dates of each travel occurrence.

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

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

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

Sec. 226. The department shall not take disciplinary action against an employee for communicating with a member of the legislature or his or her staff.

Sec. 227. Sixty days prior to the public announcement of the intention to sell any department property, the department shall submit notification of that intent to the appropriate senate and house appropriations subcommittees and the senate and house fiscal agencies.

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

Sec. 229. There is hereby created and established under the jurisdiction and control of the department a revolving account to be known as the regional training institute conference center account. All of the fees and other revenues generated from the operation of the regional training institute conference center shall be deposited in the regional training institute conference center account. Appropriations shall be made from the account for the support of program operations and the maintenance and operations of the regional training institute, the construction and maintenance of morale, welfare, and recreation facilities on Fort Custer or training areas within Michigan, and shall not exceed the estimated revenues for the fiscal year in which they are made, together with unexpended balances from prior years. The department shall submit an annual report of operations and expenditures regarding the regional training institute conference center account to the senate and house of representatives standing committees on appropriations, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director at the end of the fiscal year.

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

(a) Military personnel.

(b) Federal, state, and local government agencies.

(c) Educational institutions.

(d) Nonprofit corporations or associations organized pursuant to the nonprofit corporation act, 1982 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 to 450.3192.

(e) Community service clubs.

(f) Groups of persons with disabilities.

(g) Members of the legislature for the purposes related to the business of the legislature.

(h) Entities and organizations that wish to use the conference center to host an event that has a military agenda.

Sec. 231. (1) The department shall report to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the budget for the department, the joint committee on administrative rules, and the senate and house fiscal agencies by no later than April 1, 2009 on each specific policy change made to implement a public act affecting the department that took effect during the prior calendar year.

(2) Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by the department to adopt a rule that will apply to a small business and that will have a disproportionate economic impact on small businesses because of the size of those businesses if the department fails to reduce the disproportionate economic impact of the rule on small businesses as provided under section 40 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.240.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Rule" means that term as defined under section 7 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.207.

(b) "Small business" means that term as defined under section 7a of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.207a.

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 act 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 act 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 act 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 act under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

Sec. 233. It is the intent of the legislature that the department, working with counties and veterans service organizations, create incentives for all counties in the state to fund at least 1 full-time county veteran's counselor for the purpose of assisting veterans with obtaining federal veterans benefits that they may be eligible to receive. The incentives could include, but not be limited to, matching funds or sharing IT resources from the department for counties to use in maximizing benefits received by Michigan veterans.

Sec. 234. It is the intent of the legislature that the department investigate methods to allow veterans to check the status of their federal benefits claims through either online resources or by telephone.

Sec. 237. The department shall not approve the travel of more than 1 departmental employee to a specific professional development conference or training seminar that is located outside of this state unless the professional development conference or training seminar is funded by a federal or private funding source and requires more than 1 person from a department to attend, or the conference or training seminar includes multiple issues in which 1 employee from the department does not have expertise.

HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES

Sec. 301. The department may charge reasonable rental and equipment usage fees for renting an armory or using the distance learning network. The fee shall include the cost of overtime compensation, insurance coverage, and any maintenance required.

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

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

(3) The department shall take steps to recruit candidates to the challenge program from economically disadvantaged areas, including those with low-income and high-unemployment backgrounds.

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

Sec. 305. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for headquarters and armories, \$5,000.00 shall be used for the purpose of rehabilitating the war veteran's memorial located on the state fairgrounds in Detroit. This funding is contingent on the receipt of \$50,000.00 in matching funds from Wayne County. Private donations may also be used for the rehabilitation of the war veteran's memorial.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 501. (1) Money appropriated in part 1 for grants to veterans service organizations shall be used only for salaries, wages, related personnel costs, training, and equipment for accredited veteran service advocacy officers and necessary support and managerial staff. Training shall be provided for service advocacy officers and shall be conducted by accredited advocacy officers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A veterans service organization receiving a grant from the money appropriated in part 1 shall file with the department an accounting of its expenditures, audited and certified by a certified public accountant, within 120 days after the organization's fiscal year end. Each organization shall provide a detailed budget request for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010 to the department by November 15, 2008. Each veterans service organization shall provide 5 copies of a listing of all service activity, an accounting of recoveries, and a listing of volunteer hours for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 to the department by January 31, 2009. Each organization shall include a listing of expenditures by spending category, including a listing of individual salaries of each officer and administrative staff. The listing of volunteer hours shall include the hours, services, and donations provided to residents of the Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home. Each veterans service organization shall provide a copy of the most recent and completed internal revenue service form 990 to the department at the end of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. A veterans service organization receiving a grant from the money appropriated in part 1 shall use the forms recommended by the Michigan veterans organizations rehabilitation and veterans service committee for filing reports required by this act. The department shall forward information required under this section to the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on military affairs, and the state budget office.

(4) The veterans service directors committee and the department shall take steps to improve the coordination of veterans benefits counseling in the state to maximize the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars in this goal and to ensure that every veteran is served.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) The veterans service directors committee, the Michigan association of county veterans counselors, and the department shall create a report of the efforts to complete the goals outlined in this section and shall provide suggestions on how a more effective and efficient veterans' benefits counseling program may best be designed for

implementation for fiscal year 2009-2010. This report shall be delivered to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees no later than March 1, 2009.

VETERANS' HOMES

Sec. 601. Appropriations in this act for the Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home shall not be used for any purpose other than for veterans and veterans' families.

Sec. 602. The Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home, together with the department and the department of management and budget, shall produce and deliver to the senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on state police and military affairs an annual written report. The report shall include an accounting of member populations and bed space available; a description and accounting of services and activities provided to members; financial information; current state nursing home licensure status; the steps required for Medicaid certification, including a listing of any personnel, equipment, supplies, or budgetary increases required; and whether or not steps are being taken toward Medicaid certification. The annual report shall be submitted to the senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on military affairs no later than February 1, 2009.

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

Sec. 604. The department shall, prior to altering the spending plan by the board of managers of post and posthumous funds, report to the appropriate senate and house appropriations subcommittees 30 days prior to that action and shall indicate the rationale for that decision.

VETERANS' TRUST FUND

Sec. 703. By April 1, 2009, the department shall submit to the senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on military affairs and the state budget office a detailed annual report of the Michigan veterans' trust fund for fiscal year 2007-2008. The report shall include information on grants provided from the emergency grant program, including details concerning the methodology of allocations, the selection of emergency grant program authorized agents, and a detailed breakdown of trust fund expenditures for that year. The report shall also provide an update on the department's efforts to reduce program administrative costs and restore the Michigan veterans' trust fund corpus to its original amount of \$50,000,000.00.

Sec. 704. The Michigan veterans affairs directorate administration and the Michigan veterans' trust fund administration shall take steps to assist the county veterans counselors of the state to obtain training necessary for the execution of their duties.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

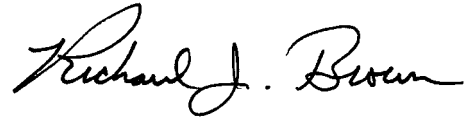
Sec. 801. The appropriations in part 1 for the department of military and veterans affairs design and construction projects are contingent upon the availability of federal and state restricted funds for financing.

Sec. 802. (1) The director shall allocate lump-sum appropriations made in this bill consistent with statutory provisions and the purposes for which funds were appropriated. Lump-sum allocations shall address priority program or facility needs and may include, but are not limited to, design, construction, remodeling and addition, special maintenance, major special maintenance, energy conservation, and demolition.

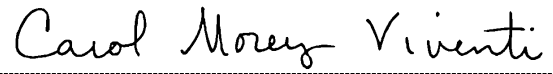
(2) The state budget director may authorize that funds appropriated for lump-sum appropriations shall be available for no more than 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the original appropriation was made. Any remaining balance from allocations made in this section shall lapse to the fund from which it was appropriated pursuant to the lapsing of funds as provided in the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

Sec. 803. The appropriations in part 1 for capital outlay shall be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year consistent with section 248 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1248.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____

Governor