

FIRST CONFERENCE REPORT

The Committee of Conference on the matters of difference between the two Houses concerning

Senate Bill No. 144, entitled

A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

Recommends:

First: That the House recede from the Substitute of the House as passed by the House.

Second: That the Senate and House agree to the Substitute of the Senate as passed by the Senate, amended to read as follows:

(attached)

Third: That the Senate and House agree to the title of the bill to read as follows:

A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

Tom Barrett

Aaron Miller

Jim Stamas

Greg VanWoerkom

Adam Hollier

Joe Tate

Conferees for the Senate

Conferees for the House

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 144**

A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

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PART 1

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. There is appropriated for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, from the following funds:

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated unclassified positions 9.0

Full-time equated classified positions 924.5

GROSS APPROPRIATION \$ 204,617,600

1	Interdepartmental grant revenues:	
2	IDG from department of state police	101,800
3	Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental	
4	transfers.....	101,800
5	ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 204,515,800
6	Federal revenues:	
7	Other federal revenues	106,177,200
8	Total federal revenues	106,177,200
9	Special revenue funds:	
10	Total local revenues	0
11	Private revenues	630,000
12	Total private revenues	630,000
13	Other state restricted revenues	23,908,600
14	Total other state restricted revenues	23,908,600
15	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 73,800,000
16	State general fund/general purpose schedule:	
17	Ongoing state general fund/general	
18	purpose	73,184,900
19	One-time state general fund/general	
20	purpose	615,100
21	Sec. 102. MILITARY	
22	Full-time equated unclassified positions	9.0
23	Full-time equated classified positions	353.0
24	Unclassified salaries--9.0 FTE positions	\$ 1,558,300
25	Departmentwide	1,761,900
26	Headquarters and armories--86.0 FTE positions	20,688,500
27	Michigan youth challenge academy--50.0 FTE positions .	7,580,900

1	Military family relief fund	600,000
2	Military retirement	1,000,000
3	Military training sites and support	
4	facilities--215.0 FTE positions	36,590,300
5	National Guard operations	398,200
6	National Guard tuition assistance fund--2.0 FTE	
7	positions.....	6,509,900
8	Starbase grant	<u>2,322,000</u>
9	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 79,010,000
10	Appropriated from:	
11	Interdepartmental grant revenues:	
12	IDG from department of state police	101,800
13	Federal revenues:	
14	Other federal revenues	53,577,700
15	Special revenue funds:	
16	Private revenues	90,000
17	Other state restricted revenues	2,434,900
18	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 22,805,600
19	Sec. 103. MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY	
20	Full-time equated classified positions	253.0
21	Board of managers (veterans homes)	\$ 940,000
22	County veteran service fund	4,000,000
23	D.J. Jacobetti home for veterans--205.0 FTE positions	24,918,600
24	Michigan veterans affairs agency	
25	administration--39.0 FTE positions	7,191,600
26	Michigan veterans facility authority--3.0 FTE	
27	positions.....	1,276,900

1	Veterans trust fund administration--6.0 FTE positions	1,488,300
2	Veterans trust fund grants	3,746,500
3	Veterans service grants	<u>3,835,500</u>
4	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 47,397,400
5	Appropriated from:	
6	Federal revenues:	
7	Other federal revenues	10,447,800
8	Special revenue funds:	
9	Private revenues	540,000
10	Other state restricted revenues	10,947,700
11	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 25,461,900
12	Sec. 104. GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS	
13	Full-time equated classified positions	318.5
14	Veterans home operations	\$ 9,038,900
15	Purchased services	10,340,000
16	Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits--318.5 FTE	
17	positions.....	<u>31,885,400</u>
18	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 51,264,300
19	Appropriated from:	
20	Federal revenues:	
21	Other federal revenues	21,565,000
22	Special revenue funds:	
23	Other state restricted revenues	6,800,900
24	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 22,898,400
25	Sec. 105. CAPITAL OUTLAY	
26	Land and acquisitions	\$ 3,300,000
27	Special maintenance - National Guard	20,000,000

1	Special maintenance - veterans homes	500,000
2	Armory maintenance	<u>1,000,000</u>
3	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 24,800,000
4	Appropriated from:	
5	Federal revenues:	
6	Other federal revenues	20,000,000
7	Special revenue funds:	
8	Other state restricted revenues	3,300,000
9	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 1,500,000
10	Sec. 106. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
11	Information technology services and projects	\$ <u>1,530,800</u>
12	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 1,530,800
13	Appropriated from:	
14	Federal revenues:	
15	Other federal revenues	586,700
16	Special revenue funds:	
17	Other state restricted revenues	425,100
18	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 519,000
19	Sec. 107. ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS	
20	Armory maintenance	\$ 65,100
21	Buddy-to-buddy program	250,000
22	Uniform update	50,000
23	Veterans benefit eligibility study	<u>250,000</u>
24	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 615,100
25	Appropriated from:	
26	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 615,100

PART 2

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 201. Pursuant to section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state sources under part 1 for fiscal year 2019-2020 is \$97,708,600.00 and state spending from state sources to be paid to local units of government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 is \$4,315,000.00. The itemized statement below identifies appropriations from which spending to local units of government will occur:

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

County veteran service fund	\$	4,000,000
Michigan veterans affairs agency administration		90,000
Military training sites and support facilities		<u>225,000</u>
TOTAL	\$	4,315,000

Sec. 202. The appropriations made and expenditures authorized under this part and part 1 and the departments, commissions, boards, offices, and programs for which appropriations are made under this part and part 1 are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

Sec. 203. As used in this part and part 1:

(a) "Core services" means that term as defined in section 373 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1373.

(b) "Department" means the department of military and veterans affairs.

(c) "Director" means the director of the department.

1 (d) "FTE" means full-time equated.

2 (e) "HVAC" means heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

3 (f) "IDG" means interdepartmental grant.

4 (g) "Michigan veterans' facility authority" means the
5 authority created under section 3 of the Michigan veterans'
6 facility authority act, 2016 PA 560, MCL 36.103.

7 (h) "MVAA" means the Michigan veterans affairs agency.

8 (i) "Subcommittees" means the subcommittees of the senate and
9 house appropriations committees with jurisdiction over the budget
10 of the department.

11 (j) "Support services" means an activity, such as information
12 technology, accounting, human resources, legal, and other support
13 functions that are required to support the ongoing delivery of core
14 services.

15 (k) "USDVA" means the United States Department of Veterans
16 Affairs.

17 (l) "USDVA-VHA" means the USDVA Veterans Health
18 Administration.

19 (m) "VSO" means veterans service organization.

20 (n) "Work project" means that term as defined in section 404
21 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1404, and
22 that meets the criteria in section 451a(1) of the management and
23 budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a.

24 Sec. 204. The department and agencies receiving appropriations
25 in part 1 shall use the internet to fulfill the reporting
26 requirements of this part. This requirement may include
27 transmission of reports via electronic mail to the recipients

1 identified for each reporting requirement, or it may include
2 placement of reports on an internet or intranet site.

3 Sec. 205. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for
4 the purchase of foreign goods or services, or both, if
5 competitively priced and of comparable quality American goods or
6 services, or both, are available. Preference must be given to goods
7 or services, or both, manufactured or provided by Michigan
8 businesses, if they are competitively priced and of comparable
9 quality. In addition, preference shall be given to goods or
10 services, or both, that are manufactured or provided by Michigan
11 businesses owned and operated by veterans, if they are
12 competitively priced and of comparable quality.

13 Sec. 206. The director shall take all reasonable steps to
14 ensure businesses in deprived and depressed communities compete for
15 and perform contracts to provide services or supplies, or both. The
16 director shall strongly encourage firms with which the department
17 contracts to subcontract with certified businesses in depressed and
18 deprived communities for services or supplies, or both.

19 Sec. 207. The department and agencies receiving appropriations
20 in part 1 shall prepare a report on out-of-state travel expenses
21 not later than January 1 of each year. The travel report shall be a
22 listing of all travel by classified and unclassified employees
23 outside this state in the immediately preceding fiscal year that
24 was funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated in the
25 department's budget. The department and agencies shall submit the
26 report to the senate and house appropriations committees, the house
27 and senate fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The

1 report shall include the following information:

2 (a) The dates of each travel occurrence.

3 (b) The transportation and related costs of each travel
4 occurrence, including the proportion funded with state general
5 fund/general purpose revenues, the proportion funded with state
6 restricted revenues, the proportion funded with federal revenues,
7 and the proportion funded with other revenues.

8 Sec. 208. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by a
9 principal executive department, state agency, or authority to hire
10 a person to provide legal services that are the responsibility of
11 the attorney general. This prohibition does not apply to legal
12 services for bonding activities and for those outside services that
13 the attorney general authorizes.

14 Sec. 209. Not later than November 30, the state budget office
15 shall prepare and transmit a report that provides for estimates of
16 the total general fund/general purpose appropriation lapses at the
17 close of the prior fiscal year. This report shall summarize the
18 projected year-end general fund/general purpose appropriation
19 lapses by major departmental program or program areas. The report
20 shall be transmitted to the chairpersons of the senate and house
21 appropriations committees, the subcommittees, and the senate and
22 house fiscal agencies.

23 Sec. 210. (1) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1,
24 there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$8,600,000.00 for
25 federal contingency funds. These funds are not available for
26 expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item
27 in part 1 under section 393(2) of the management and budget act,

1 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

2 (2) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
3 appropriated an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00 for state
4 restricted contingency funds. These funds are not available for
5 expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item
6 in part 1 under section 393(2) of the management and budget act,
7 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

8 (3) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
9 appropriated an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for local
10 contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure
11 until they have been transferred to another line item in part 1
12 under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431,
13 MCL 18.1393.

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

20 Sec. 211. The department shall cooperate with the department
21 of technology, management and budget to maintain a searchable
22 website accessible by the public at no cost that includes, but is
23 not limited to, all of the following:

24 (a) Fiscal year-to-date expenditures by category.

25 (b) Fiscal year-to-date expenditures by appropriation unit.

26 (c) Fiscal year-to-date payments to a selected vendor,
27 including the vendor name, payment date, payment amount, and

1 payment description.

2 (d) The number of active department employees by job
3 classification.

4 (e) Job specifications and wage rates.

5 Sec. 212. Within 14 days after the release of the executive
6 budget recommendation, the department shall cooperate with the
7 state budget office to provide the senate and house appropriations
8 chairs, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees chairs,
9 and the senate and house fiscal agencies with an annual report on
10 estimated state restricted fund balances, state restricted fund
11 projected revenues, and state restricted fund expenditures for the
12 fiscal years ending September 30, 2019 and September 30, 2020.

13 Sec. 213. The department shall maintain, on a publicly
14 accessible website, a department scorecard that identifies, tracks,
15 and regularly updates key metrics that are used to monitor and
16 improve the department's performance.

17 Sec. 214. Total authorized appropriations from all sources
18 under part 1 for legacy costs for the fiscal year ending September
19 30, 2020 are estimated at \$17,277,800.00. From this amount, total
20 agency appropriations for pension-related legacy costs are
21 estimated at \$8,399,100.00. Total agency appropriations for retiree
22 health care legacy costs are estimated at \$8,878,700.00.

23 Sec. 215. The department shall not take disciplinary action
24 against an employee for communicating with a member of the
25 legislature or his or her staff.

26 Sec. 216. The department shall provide biannual reports to the
27 subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state

1 budget office, which shall provide the following data:

2 (a) A list of all major work projects, including a status
3 report of each project.

4 (b) The department's financial status, featuring a report of
5 budgeted versus actual expenditures by part 1 line item including a
6 year-end projection of budget requirements. If projected department
7 budget requirements exceed the allocated budget, the report shall
8 include a plan to reduce overall expenses while still satisfying
9 specified service level requirements.

10 (c) A report on the status of performance metrics cited in
11 this part and information required to be reported in this part.

12 (d) The number of active employees at the close of the
13 reporting period by job classification and program.

14 (e) Evidence of efficiencies and management of funds within
15 established appropriations.

16 Sec. 217. The appropriations in part 1 are for the core
17 services, support services, and work projects of the department,
18 including, but not limited to, the following core services:

19 (a) Armories and joint force readiness.

20 (b) National Guard training facilities and air bases.

21 (c) Michigan youth challenge academy.

22 (d) Military family relief fund.

23 (e) Starbase grant.

24 (f) National Guard tuition assistance program.

25 (g) Michigan veterans affairs agency administration.

26 (h) Veterans service grants.

27 (i) Veterans' trust fund administration.

- 1 (j) Veterans' trust fund grants.
2 (k) Board of managers (veterans homes).
3 (l) Grand Rapids home for veterans.
4 (m) D.J. Jacobetti home for veterans.
5 (n) Michigan veterans' facility authority.
6 (o) County veteran service fund.

7 Sec. 218. The appropriations in part 1 for capital outlay
8 shall be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year consistent
9 with section 248 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL
10 18.1248.

11 Sec. 219. Sixty days prior to the public announcement of the
12 intention to sell any department real property, the department
13 shall submit notification of that intent to the subcommittees and
14 the senate and house fiscal agencies.

15 **MILITARY**

16 Sec. 301. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
17 funding to support unclassified employee positions as authorized by
18 section 5 of article XI of the state constitution of 1963.

19 (2) Not less than 30 days prior to the department submitting a
20 request for an additional unclassified employee position from the
21 civil service commission, or for any substantive change to the
22 duties of an existing unclassified employee position, the
23 department shall notify the subcommittees and the senate and house
24 fiscal agencies.

25 Sec. 302. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for
26 military operations, effective and efficient executive direction

1 and administrative leadership shall be provided to the department.

2 (2) The department shall operate and maintain National Guard
3 armories.

4 (3) The department shall evaluate armories and submit a report
5 as provided under section 216 of this part on the status of the
6 armories.

7 (4) The department shall maintain a system to measure the
8 condition and adequacy of the armories.

9 (5) The Michigan Army National Guard and Air National Guard
10 shall work to provide a culture that is free of sexual assault,
11 through an environment of prevention, education and training,
12 response capability, victim support, reporting procedures, and
13 appropriate accountability that enhances the safety and well-being
14 of all guard members.

15 (6) By December 1, the department shall report the following
16 information to the subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal
17 agencies, and the state budget office:

18 (a) An assessment of the grounds and facilities of each armory
19 to objectively measure and determine the current facility condition
20 and capability to support authorized manpower, unit training, and
21 operations.

22 (b) Recommendations for the placement of new armories, the
23 relocation or consolidation of existing armories, or a change in
24 the mission of units assigned to armories to ideally position the
25 National Guard in current or projected population centers.

26 (c) Recommendations for the enhanced use of armories to
27 facilitate family support programs during deployments.

1 (d) An analysis of the feasibility, potential costs, and
2 benefits of use of armories shared with other local, state, or
3 federal agencies to improve responses to local emergencies as well
4 as the community support provided to armories.

5 (e) An investment strategy and proposed funding amounts in a
6 prioritized project list to correct the most critical facility
7 shortfalls across the inventory of armories in this state.

8 Sec. 303. (1) The department shall maintain the Michigan youth
9 challenge academy to provide values, skills, education, and self-
10 discipline instruction for at-risk youth as provided under 32 USC
11 509.

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

15 (3) The department shall partner with the department of health
16 and human services to identify youth who may be eligible for the
17 challenge academy from those youth served by department of health
18 and human services programs. These eligible youth shall be given
19 priority for enrollment in the academy.

20 (4) The department shall maintain the staffing and resources
21 necessary to train and graduate at least 114 students per cohort
22 (228 annually).

23 (5) The department shall ensure individual academic success as
24 measured by the number of individuals who have received a general
25 equivalency diploma, high school diploma, or high school credit
26 recovery or by the improvement of tests of adult basic education
27 scores, or both.

1 (6) Any unexpended private donations to support the Michigan
2 youth challenge academy at the close of this fiscal year shall not
3 lapse to the general fund but shall be carried forward to the
4 subsequent fiscal year.

5 Sec. 304. (1) The department shall provide grants for
6 disbursement from the military family relief fund, as provided
7 under the military family relief fund act, 2004 PA 363, MCL 35.1211
8 to 35.1216, and R 200.5 to R 200.95 of the Michigan Administrative
9 Code.

10 (2) The department shall provide information on the revenues,
11 expenditures for advertising and assistance grants, and fund
12 balance of the Michigan military family relief fund, as provided
13 under section 216 of this part.

14 (3) The department shall provide sufficient staffing and other
15 resources to provide outreach to the Michigan families of members
16 of the reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States
17 called into active duty and to support the processing and approval
18 of grant applications for this fiscal year under the Michigan
19 military relief fund and report those applications as provided
20 under section 216 of this part.

21 Sec. 305. (1) The department shall provide Army and Air
22 National Guard forces, when directed, for state and local
23 emergencies and in support of national military requirements.

24 (2) The department shall operate and maintain Army National
25 Guard training facilities, including Fort Custer and Camp Grayling.

26 (3) The department shall maintain a system that measures the
27 condition and adequacy of air facilities using both quality and

1 functionality criteria.

2 (4) The department shall operate and maintain Air National
3 Guard air bases, including Selfridge Air National Guard base,
4 Battle Creek Air National Guard base, and Alpena combat readiness
5 training center.

6 (5) The department shall provide the following information as
7 provided under section 216 of this part:

8 (a) The apportioned and assigned strength of the Michigan Army
9 National Guard.

10 (b) The apportioned and assigned strength of the Michigan Air
11 National Guard.

12 (c) Recruiting, retention, and attrition data, including
13 measurement against stated performance goals, for the Michigan Army
14 National Guard.

15 (d) Recruiting, retention, and attrition data, including
16 measurement against stated performance goals, for the Michigan Air
17 National Guard.

18 Sec. 306. There is created and established under the
19 jurisdiction and control of the department a revolving account to
20 be known as the billeting fund account. All of the fees and other
21 revenues generated from the operation of the chargeable transient
22 quarters program shall be deposited in the billeting fund account.
23 Appropriations will be made from the account for the support of
24 program operations and the maintenance and operations of the
25 chargeable transient quarters program and will not exceed the
26 estimated revenues for the fiscal year in which they are made,
27 together with unexpended balances from prior years. The department

1 shall submit an annual report of operations and expenditures
2 regarding the billeting fund account to the appropriations
3 committees of the senate and house of representatives, the senate
4 and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget office at the end
5 of the fiscal year.

6 Sec. 307. (1) The department shall maintain a National Guard
7 tuition assistance program for members of the Michigan Army and Air
8 National Guard.

9 (2) The objective of the National Guard tuition assistance
10 program is to bolster military readiness by increasing recruitment
11 and retention of Michigan Army and Air National Guard service
12 members, to fill federally authorized strength levels for the
13 state, to improve the Michigan Army and Air National Guard's
14 competitive draw from other military enlistment options in the
15 state, to enhance the ability of the Michigan Army and Air National
16 Guard to compete for members and federal dollars with surrounding
17 states, and to increase the pool of eligible candidates within the
18 Michigan Army and Air National Guard to become commissioned
19 officers.

20 (3) The department shall make efforts to increase the number
21 of national guard members who have received a credential or are
22 still enrolled in the Michigan National Guard tuition assistance
23 program after their initial term of enlistment with the goal of 55%
24 of program participants, or at the current 4-year college
25 graduation rate in Michigan, whichever is higher. To evaluate the
26 effectiveness of the program, the department shall monitor the
27 number of new recruits and new reenlistments and the percentage of

1 those who become participants in the program to determine whether
2 the percentage of authorized Michigan Army and Air National Guard
3 strength obtained and retained is competitive in comparison with
4 the neighboring army and air national guards from Illinois,
5 Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

6 (4) Not later than March 1, 2020, the department shall provide
7 a report to the subcommittees on the Michigan National Guard
8 tuition assistance program. The report shall include the number of
9 guard members receiving tuition assistance, where those guard
10 members received education or training under the program, the
11 average amount of financial assistance received, the total funds
12 spent on the program, and, in the opinion of the department, after
13 those expenditures, whether any unmet needs remained. The report
14 shall also include performance data regarding the number of members
15 denied benefits from the program. The report shall include, but is
16 not limited to, all of the following information:

17 (a) The total number of applications for tuition assistance
18 denied.

19 (b) A delineated list of the grounds for denial and the number
20 of the total applicable to each reason for denial.

21 (c) A list of specific actions undertaken to increase the
22 opportunities for expanding qualified educational and training
23 programs.

24 (d) A list of any educational and training programs removed
25 from eligibility and the rationale for their removal.

26 (e) An explanation of any identified barriers to the
27 successful utilization of funds appropriated in part 1 for the

1 National Guard tuition assistance fund and applicable proposals for
2 legislative action to address those barriers.

3 (5) The general fund/general purpose funds appropriated in
4 part 1 for the National Guard tuition assistance fund shall be
5 deposited to the restricted Michigan National Guard tuition
6 assistance fund created in section 4 of the Michigan National Guard
7 tuition assistance act, 2014 PA 259, MCL 32.434. All funds in the
8 restricted Michigan National Guard tuition assistance fund are
9 appropriated and available for expenditure to support the Michigan
10 National Guard tuition assistance program.

11 Sec. 308. The department shall maintain the starbase program
12 at Air National Guard facilities, as provided under 10 USC 2193b,
13 to improve the knowledge, skills, and interest of students,
14 primarily in the fifth grade, in math, science, and technology. The
15 starbase program is to specifically target minority and at-risk
16 students for participation.

17 **MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY**

18 Sec. 401. The board of managers and Michigan veterans'
19 facility authority shall exercise certain regulatory and governance
20 authority regarding admission and member affairs at the Grand
21 Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans. The board of managers
22 shall also work to represent the interest of the veterans'
23 community in both advisory and advocacy roles.

24 Sec. 402. (1) The MVAA, the board of managers, and the
25 Michigan veterans' facility authority shall provide compassionate
26 and quality nursing and domiciliary care services at the Grand

1 Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans so that members can
2 achieve their highest potential of wellness, independence, self-
3 worth, and dignity.

4 (2) The department shall provide resources necessary to
5 provide nursing care services to veterans in accordance with
6 federal standards and provide the results of the annual USDVA
7 survey and certification as proof of compliance.

8 (3) Appropriations in part 1 for the Grand Rapids and the D.J.
9 Jacobetti homes for veterans shall not be used for any purpose
10 other than for veterans and veterans' families.

11 (4) Any contractor providing mental health services to the
12 Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans shall utilize
13 mental health interventions that have been shown to be effective
14 with the conditions they are treating, in accordance with evidence-
15 based best practices supported by the USDVA-VHA, United States
16 Department of Defense, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
17 Services Administration, the American Psychological Association,
18 and the National Association of Social Workers.

19 (5) Any contractor providing competency evaluated nursing
20 assistants (CENA) to the Grand Rapids home for veterans shall
21 ensure that each CENA has at least 8 hours of training on
22 information provided by the home.

23 (6) Any contractor providing competency evaluated nursing
24 assistants to the Grand Rapids home for veterans shall ensure that
25 each CENA has at least 1 eight-hour shift of shadowing at the
26 veterans' home.

27 (7) Any contractor providing competency evaluated nursing

1 assistants to the Grand Rapids home for veterans shall ensure that
2 each CENA is competent in the basic skills needed to perform his or
3 her assigned duties at the home.

4 (8) The Grand Rapids home for veterans shall provide each CENA
5 at least 12 hours of in-service training once that individual has
6 been assigned to the home.

7 (9) All complaints of abusive or neglectful care at the Grand
8 Rapids and the D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans by a resident
9 member, a resident member's family or legal guardian, or staff of
10 the veterans' homes received by a supervisor shall be referred to
11 the director of nursing or his or her designee upon receipt of the
12 complaint. The director of nursing or his or her designee shall
13 report on not less than a monthly basis, except that the board of
14 managers may specify a more frequent reporting period to the home
15 administrator, board of managers, agency, subcommittees, senate and
16 house fiscal agencies, and state budget office the following
17 information:

18 (a) A description of the process by which resident members and
19 others may file complaints of alleged abuse or neglect at the Grand
20 Rapids and the D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans.

21 (b) Summary statistics on the number and general nature of
22 complaints of abuse or neglect.

23 (c) Summary statistics on the final disposition of complaints
24 of abuse or neglect received.

25 (10) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
26 shall provide an on-site, board-certified psychiatrist for all
27 resident members with mental health disorders in order to ensure

1 that those resident members receive needed services in a
2 professional and timely manner. The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti
3 homes for veterans shall provide all members and staff a safe and
4 secure environment.

5 (11) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
6 shall ensure that they effectively develop, execute, and monitor
7 all comprehensive care plans in accordance with federal regulations
8 and their internal policies, with a goal that a comprehensive care
9 plan is fully developed for all resident members.

10 (12) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
11 shall implement controls over their food, maintenance supplies,
12 pharmaceuticals, and medical supplies inventories.

13 (13) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
14 shall establish sufficient controls for calculating resident member
15 maintenance assessments in order to accurately calculate resident
16 member maintenance assessments for each billing cycle. The Grand
17 Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans shall establish
18 sufficient controls to ensure that all past due resident member
19 maintenance assessments are addressed within 30 days.

20 (14) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
21 shall establish sufficient controls over monetary donations and
22 donated goods.

23 (15) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
24 shall implement sufficient controls over the handling of resident
25 member funds to ensure the release of funds within 15 calendar days
26 upon the resident member leaving the home and to ensure that a
27 representative of a resident member is provided a full accounting

1 of that resident member's funds within 30 calendar days of the
2 death of that resident member.

3 (16) The MVAA shall post on its website all policies adopted
4 by the board of managers, the Michigan veterans' facility
5 authority, and the veterans' homes related to the administrative
6 operations of the veterans' homes.

7 (17) The process by which visitors, residents, and employees
8 of the Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans may
9 register complaints shall be displayed in high-traffic areas
10 throughout the home.

11 (18) The MVAA shall report its findings regarding the state
12 veterans' homes' compliance with the requirements and standards
13 under this section in a quarterly report to the legislature and the
14 state budget office. The quarterly reports shall include, but are
15 not limited to, all of the following information:

16 (a) Quality of care metrics, including:

17 (i) The number of patient care hours and staffing levels
18 measured against USDVA-VHA standards.

19 (ii) Sentinel events reported to the USDVA.

20 (iii) Fall and wound reports.

21 (iv) Complaint reports, including abuse and neglect complaints
22 and outcomes of complaint investigations.

23 (v) Additional minimum data set quality of care indicators
24 used to measure quality of care in long-term care facilities.

25 (b) Quarterly budget update.

26 (c) An accounting of resident member populations at the Grand
27 Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans as follows:

1 (i) By demographics, including period of service, gender, and
2 age.

3 (ii) By care setting, payment source, and associated revenue
4 projections.

5 (d) Updates related to the modernization of the Grand Rapids
6 and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans, including information
7 related to the following:

8 (i) Infrastructure/capital outlay improvements.

9 (ii) Information technology updates.

10 (iii) Financial management.

11 (e) Updates on corrective action status related to any audit
12 and survey findings until those findings have been fully addressed.

13 (19) The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for veterans
14 shall provide to the subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal
15 agencies, and the state budget office the results of any annual or
16 for-cause survey conducted by the USDVA-VHA and any corresponding
17 corrective action plan. This information shall also be made
18 available publicly through the department's or MVAA's website.

19 (20) The MVAA shall provide to the legislature and the state
20 budget office quarterly reports of this part regarding the status
21 of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid certification efforts,
22 including, but not limited to, descriptions of incremental
23 milestones, associated expenditures, and the percentage of plan
24 completed.

25 Sec. 404. The department shall ensure that the quality of care
26 for members of the Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti homes for
27 veterans shall meet or exceed the quality of care for the full

1 spectrum of health care services to meet or exceed the Centers for
2 Medicare and Medicaid Services certification standards. The
3 department shall provide a report as provided under section 216 of
4 this part to the subcommittees, which contains evidence that the
5 quality of care for the full spectrum of health care services has
6 met or exceeded Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7 certification standards.

8 Sec. 405. (1) The MVAA shall provide a report, as provided
9 under section 216 of this part, on the financial status of the
10 Michigan veterans' trust fund, including the number and amount of
11 emergency grants, state administrative expenses, and county
12 administrative expenses.

13 (2) The Michigan veterans' trust fund board together with the
14 agency shall maintain the staffing and resources necessary to
15 process a minimum of 2,000 applications for veterans' trust fund
16 emergency grants.

17 (3) The Michigan veterans' trust fund board together with the
18 MVAA shall provide emergency grants for disbursement from the
19 Michigan veterans' trust fund, as provided under the following
20 program authorities:

21 (a) Sections 37, 38, and 39 of article IX of the state
22 constitution of 1963.

23 (b) 1946 (1st Ex Sess) PA 9, MCL 35.602 to 35.610.

24 (c) R 35.1 to R 35.7 of the Michigan Administrative Code.

25 (d) R 35.621 to R 35.623 of the Michigan Administrative Code.

26 (4) No later than December 1, the MVAA shall provide a
27 detailed report of the Michigan veterans' trust fund that includes,

1 for the immediately preceding fiscal year, information on grants
2 provided from the emergency grant program, including details
3 concerning the methodology of allocations, the selection of
4 emergency grant program authorized agents, a description of how the
5 emergency grant program is administered in each county, and a
6 detailed breakdown of trust fund expenditures for that year,
7 including the amount distributed to each county for administrative
8 costs and emergency grants. The report shall also include the
9 number of approved applications, by category of assistance, and the
10 number of denied applications, by reason of denial. The report
11 shall also provide an update on the department's efforts to reduce
12 program administrative costs and maintain the Michigan veterans'
13 trust fund corpus to its original amount of at least
14 \$50,000,000.00.

15 Sec. 406. (1) The MVAA shall provide outreach services to
16 Michigan veterans to advise them on the benefits to which they are
17 entitled, as provided under Executive Reorganization Order No.
18 2013-2, MCL 32.92. The MVAA shall also do the following:

19 (a) Maintain the staffing partnerships and other resources
20 necessary to develop and operate an outreach program that
21 communicates benefit eligibility information to at least 50% of
22 Michigan's population of veterans, as assessed by annual census
23 estimates, with a goal of reaching 100% and enabling 100% to access
24 benefit information online.

25 (b) Communicate veteran benefit information pertaining to the
26 Michigan military family relief fund, Michigan veterans' trust
27 fund, and USDVA health, financial, and memorial benefits to which

1 veterans are entitled.

2 (c) Provide sufficient staffing and other resources to approve
3 requests for military discharge certificates (DD-214) annually.

4 (d) Continue the process to digitize all medical records,
5 military discharge documents, and burial records that are currently
6 on paper and microfilm.

7 (e) Provide a report, as provided under section 216 of this
8 part, on the MVAA's performance on the performance measures,
9 outcomes, and initiatives developed by the agency in the strategic
10 plan required by section 501 of 2013 PA 9.

11 (f) Provide a report to the subcommittees, the senate and
12 house fiscal agencies, and the state budget office no later than
13 April 1 providing, to the extent known, data on the estimated
14 number of homeless veterans, by county, in this state.

15 (g) Provide the percentage of Michigan veterans contacted
16 through its outreach programs, with a goal of 90%, and report that
17 percentage to the subcommittees as provided under section 216 of
18 this part on the status of outreach.

19 (2) From the funds appropriated in part 1, the MVAA shall
20 provide for the regional coordination of services, as follows:

21 (a) Regional coordinators shall be selected by the MVAA
22 through a staff augmentation service contract with VSOs or with a
23 Michigan-based nonprofit organization.

24 (b) Regional coordinators shall provide the following
25 services:

26 (i) Coordinate with veteran benefit counselors throughout a
27 specified region.

1 (ii) Coordinate services with the department of health and
2 human services and the department of corrections.

3 (iii) Coordinate with regional workforce and economic
4 development agencies.

5 (iv) Coordinate activities among local foundations, nonprofit
6 organizations, and community groups to improve accessibility,
7 enrollment, and utilization of the array of health care, education,
8 employment assistance, and quality of life services provided at the
9 local level.

10 (c) The MVAA may work with MVAA service officers, regional
11 coordinators, county veteran counselors, VSO service officers, and
12 other service providers to incorporate the provision of information
13 relating to mental health care resources into their daily
14 operations to aid veterans in understanding the mental health care
15 support services they may be eligible to receive.

16 (d) The MVAA shall coordinate with the department of health
17 and human services to identify Medicaid recipients who are veterans
18 and who may be eligible for federal veterans health care benefits
19 or other benefits, to the extent that the identification does not
20 violate applicable confidentiality requirements.

21 (e) The MVAA shall collaborate with the department of
22 corrections to create and maintain a process by which prisoners can
23 obtain a copy of their DD-214 form or other military discharge
24 documentation if necessary.

25 (f) The MVAA shall ensure that all MVAA service officers, VSO
26 service officers, and regional coordinators receive appropriate
27 training in processing applications for benefits payable to

1 veterans due to military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress
2 disorder, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, or other mental
3 health issues.

4 (3) The MVAA shall provide claims processing services to
5 Michigan veterans in support of benefit claims submitted to the
6 USDVA for the health, financial, and memorial benefits for which
7 they are eligible, and shall do all of the following:

8 (a) Report the following information as provided in section
9 216 of this part:

10 (i) The number of benefit claims, by type, submitted to the
11 USDVA by MVAA.

12 (ii) The number of fully developed claims submitted to the
13 USDVA, with an overall goal of 40% of benefit claims submitted that
14 are considered fully developed by the USDVA.

15 (b) Maintain the staffing and resources necessary to process a
16 minimum of 500 claims per year.

17 (4) The MVAA shall maintain staffing and resources necessary
18 to develop and implement a process to ensure that all county
19 counselors receive the training and accreditation necessary to
20 provide quality services to veterans. The MVAA shall report
21 information as provided in section 216 of this part on the number
22 and percentage of county veterans counselors trained by the MVAA,
23 and the number and percentage who received funding from the MVAA to
24 attend training, with an overall goal of 100% of county veterans
25 counselors trained.

26 (5) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for MVAA, the MVAA
27 is authorized to expend up to \$50,000.00 to hire legal services to

1 represent veterans benefit cases before federal court to maintain
2 accreditation under 38 CFR 14.628(d)(1)(iv).

3 Sec. 407. (1) The MVAA shall disburse grants to achieve agency
4 goals and performance objectives in partnership with counties and
5 VSOs. Grants will be disbursed to fund programs and projects that
6 are determined by the agency to meet agency performance objectives
7 and ensure that grantees communicate the availability of emergency
8 grants through the Michigan veterans' trust fund. In disbursing
9 grants, the MVAA shall do all of the following:

10 (a) Ensure that each grantee is issued performance standards.

11 (b) Ensure that each grantee uses those funds for veterans
12 advocacy and outreach.

13 (c) Monitor the performance of each grantee.

14 (d) Require each grantee to report not less than quarterly on
15 services provided to veterans and account for all grant fund
16 expenditures.

17 (e) Require that each grantee report not less than quarterly
18 both of the following:

19 (i) The number and type of claims originated and submitted by
20 the grantee to the USDVA.

21 (ii) The number and type of claims originated by an
22 organization other than the grantee and submitted by the grantee to
23 the USDVA.

24 (f) Promulgate monthly benchmark requirements, based upon
25 contractual obligations, that each grantee must meet and require
26 each grantee to report on achieving the benchmark requirements not
27 less than quarterly to the MVAA, in order to ensure that each

1 grantee meets MVAA veteran service goals.

2 (g) Assess the accuracy rate of claims reported by grantees
3 and the attendance rate of grantees, based upon contractual
4 obligations.

5 (h) Ensure that each grantee adheres to the MVAA approved
6 schedule of operations.

7 (i) Report quarterly to the subcommittees and senate and house
8 fiscal agencies on grantee operations monitored under this
9 subsection, as provided in section 216 of this part.

10 (2) Grants awarded to a VSO by the MVAA shall provide for the
11 following, as developed by the MVAA:

12 (a) The provision of service to veterans statewide, using a
13 regional service delivery model, with services provided at
14 specified locations and times, including service provided in state
15 correctional facilities.

16 (b) The payment of an hourly service rate that shall not
17 exceed \$34.00 per hour.

18 (c) A specified number of service hours within each geographic
19 region of this state, with a statewide goal based on both
20 appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 for
21 the grant programs and the hourly service rate under subdivision
22 (b). The statewide goal will include service hours provided to
23 eligible incarcerated veterans within 1 year of their earliest
24 release date.

25 (d) Use of an MVAA-designated internet-based claims data
26 system.

27 (3) The MVAA shall report the following information as

1 provided in section 216 of this part:

2 (a) A summary of activities supported through the
3 appropriation in part 1 for grants, including the amount of
4 expenditures to date, number of service hours, number of claims for
5 benefits submitted by type of claim, and other information deemed
6 appropriate by the MVAA.

7 (b) The number and percentage of fully developed claims
8 submitted to the USDVA, and the number and percentage of fully
9 developed claims submitted that are considered fully developed by
10 the USDVA with an overall goal of 40%.

11 Sec. 409. (1) The department shall enter into an interagency
12 agreement in cooperation with the department of health and human
13 services in order to work with the federal public assistance
14 reporting information system to identify Medicaid recipients who
15 are veterans and who may be eligible for federal veterans' health
16 care benefits or other benefits. The interagency agreement shall
17 include the specific outcome and performance reporting requirements
18 described in this section. The interagency agreement shall require
19 the department to provide all of the following items by January 1
20 for the current fiscal year to the subcommittees, the senate and
21 house fiscal agencies, and the policy offices:

22 (a) The number of veterans identified by the department of
23 health and human services through eligibility determinations.

24 (b) The number of veterans referred to the department.

25 (c) The number of referrals made by the department of health
26 and human services that were contacted by the department.

27 (d) The number of referrals made to the department that were

1 eligible for veterans health care benefits or other benefits.

2 (e) The specific actions and efforts undertaken by the
3 department of health and human services and the department to
4 identify female veterans who are applying for public assistance
5 benefits, but who are eligible for veterans benefits.

6 (2) By October 1 of the current fiscal year, the department of
7 health and human services shall change the public assistance
8 application form from asking whether the prospective applicant was
9 a veteran to asking whether the applicant had ever served in the
10 military.

11 Sec. 410. The general fund/general purpose funds appropriated
12 in part I for the county veteran service fund shall be deposited to
13 the restricted county veteran service fund created in section 3a of
14 1953 PA 192, MCL 35.623a. All funds in the restricted county
15 veteran service fund are appropriated and available for expenditure
16 to support county veteran service grants.

17 Sec. 411. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the MVAA
18 shall conduct an assessment of the need for, feasibility, and
19 annual cost to the state of establishing and maintaining a new
20 veterans' cemetery in the upper peninsula of the state. The
21 assessment shall consider the availability of any federal funds
22 available for veterans cemeteries for its determinations. The MVAA
23 shall report the findings of the assessment to each chairperson of
24 the subcommittees, the house and senate fiscal agencies, and the
25 state budget office by not later than September 30, 2020.

26 **CAPITAL OUTLAY**

1 Sec. 501. (1) The department shall provide for the acquisition
2 and disposition of National Guard armories, facilities, and lands
3 as provided under sections 368, 382, and 382a of the Michigan
4 military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.768, 32.782, and 32.782a.

5 (2) The department shall provide a listing of property sales
6 and acquisitions as provided under section 216 of this part.

7 Sec. 502. (1) The appropriations in part 1 for special
8 maintenance - National Guard shall be carried forward at the end of
9 the fiscal year consistent with section 248 of the management and
10 budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1248.

11 (2) The appropriations for special maintenance - National
12 Guard shall be expended in accordance with the requirements of
13 sections 302 and 305 of this part and shall be expended according
14 to the maintenance priorities of the department to repair and
15 modernize military training sites and support facilities, including
16 armories, which may include projects such as roof, HVAC, or boiler
17 replacement, interior renovations, facility expansion, improvements
18 to parking facilities, and other projects.

19 (3) The department shall provide a report as provided under
20 section 216 of this part providing information on the status,
21 projected costs, and projected completion date of current and
22 planned special maintenance projects at the armories and other
23 National Guard facilities funded from capital outlay appropriations
24 made in part 1 and in prior appropriations years.

25 Sec. 503. (1) The appropriations in part 1 for special
26 maintenance - veterans homes shall be carried forward at the end of
27 the fiscal year consistent with section 248 of the management and

1 budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1248.

2 (2) The appropriations for special maintenance - veterans
3 homes shall be expended in accordance with the requirements of
4 section 402 of this part and shall be expended according to the
5 maintenance priorities of the department to repair and modernize
6 the state's veterans' homes, which may include projects such as
7 roof, HVAC, or boiler replacement, interior renovations, facility
8 expansion, improvements to parking facilities, and other projects
9 designed to enhance the quality of life and medical care of
10 members.

11 (3) The MVAA shall provide a report as provided under section
12 216 of this part providing information on the status, projected
13 costs, and projected completion date of current and planned special
14 maintenance projects at the Grand Rapids home for veterans and D.J.
15 Jacobetti home for veterans funded from capital outlay
16 appropriations made in part 1 and in prior appropriations years.

17 Sec. 504. (1) The appropriations in part 1 for armory
18 maintenance shall be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year
19 consistent with section 248 of the management and budget act, 1984
20 PA 431, MCL 18.1248.

21 (2) The appropriations for armory maintenance shall be
22 expended in accordance with the requirements of sections 302 and
23 305 of this part and shall be expended according to the maintenance
24 priorities of the department to repair and modernize military
25 training sites and support facilities, including armories.

26 **ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS**

1 Sec. 601. The appropriation in part 1 for buddy-to-buddy
2 program shall be used to train volunteer Michigan veterans to
3 provide outreach and support for other Michigan service members and
4 veterans in dealing with the challenges they face, including those
5 related to finances, securing benefits, legal issues, education,
6 and health, family, and emotional concerns.

7 Sec. 602. Funds appropriated in part 1 for uniform update
8 shall be used for the fielding and issuing of Army National Guard
9 aircrew combat uniforms in operational camouflage pattern and
10 related uniform accessories to replace discontinued universal
11 camouflage pattern uniforms.

12 Sec. 603. The appropriation in part 1 for a veterans benefit
13 eligibility study shall be used for the commission of a study that
14 will create, implement, and evaluate a program that will identify
15 Michigan Medicaid beneficiaries who are veterans and support them
16 in exploring their eligibility for USDVA-VHA health care benefits.
17 A report from the study must be delivered to the department and the
18 subcommittees no later than December 1, 2020 and must contain the
19 findings of the study, including data as to the frequency of
20 veteran Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible, but who are not
21 aware, or have not taken steps to seek USDVA-VHA health care
22 services, and shall include recommendations to the department on
23 effective and efficient strategies that could be used to identify
24 such veterans and facilitate their exploration of eligibility for
25 USDVA-VHA health care benefits.