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## ANNUAL REPORT: PROVIDE TO VETERANS' GROUPS

House Bill 4007 as introduced  
First Analysis (12-3-96)

Sponsor: Rep. David Anthony  
Committee: Senior Citizens and Veterans  
Affairs

### ***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

The Veteran Right to Employment Services Act requires state agencies and departments that administer state or federally funded employment services or job training programs to provide effective and equitable service to veterans. The act also requires these state departments and agencies to prepare and submit to the standing committees of the House and Senate with responsibility for military affairs an annual written report that separately identifies each employment service or job training service or program provided by that agency or department to eligible persons under the act. The information is intended to help the legislature determine to what extent qualified veterans and their family members are making use of the services of these agencies and departments to help them find suitable work. Because of their roles in acting for and on behalf of veterans and their families, some people argue the act should also specifically require that such information be made available to the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund Board and various veterans' groups.

### ***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The Veteran Right to Employment Services Act (MCL 35.1091 et al.) requires, among other things, that agencies or departments that administer federally or state funded employment services or job training programs (including those administrated under the federal Job Training Partnership Act [96 Stat. 1322]) prepare and submit an annual written report to the standing committees of the legislature that have responsibility for military affairs. The report must identify each of the employment services or job training services or programs provided by the agency or department to veterans and the procedures employed to ensure compliance with the state act. House Bill 4007 would require that a copy of the annual report also be submitted to the board of trustees of the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund to be forwarded to appropriate veterans' organizations.

MCL 35.1094

### ***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal impact. (11-20-96)

### ***ARGUMENTS:***

#### ***For:***

The bill simply would require that the report detailing the employment and job training services that certain state departments and agencies provide to veterans and their families, which the Veteran Right to Employment Services Act requires them to submit annually to legislators, be made available to the MVTF Board of Trustees, which then would forward it to various veterans groups for their perusal. Thus, the bill would ensure that those who represent veterans and their families could review the report's findings to determine if the intended recipients had received the employment services to which they are entitled.

#### ***Against:***

The bill is unnecessary as the MVTF Board, veterans' groups, and even veterans or their families currently may request a copy of the annual report from the legislature under the Freedom of Information Act. Also, as the report is required to be provided to legislative committees charged with oversight of military and veterans matters, it may be assumed that any irregularities appearing in the report could be publicly investigated by these committees (with input from veterans' groups, veterans, and their families).

#### ***Response:***

The reason for providing copies of the report to veterans' groups is not merely to investigate irregularities in the report, but rather to help the veteran's groups to make decisions regarding how best to use their resources to assist veterans and their families.

#### ***Against:***

Depending upon the number of copies that the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund board is expected to distribute, the

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bill's requirements could significantly affect the already stressed resources of the MVTF board.

***POSITIONS:***

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) supports the bill. (11-25-96)

Analyst: W. Flory

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.