

Senate Fiscal Agency
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SFA**BILL ANALYSIS**

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House Bill 4776 (Substitute H-1 as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Larry Julian

House Committee: Veterans Affairs

Senate Committee: Human Resources, Labor, Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would create a new act to establish a veterans speakers program within the Veterans' Affairs Directorate of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Under the program, the Directorate could do all of the following:

- Create a list of veterans who were willing to visit local schools and make presentations of their military experiences. The list would have to include each veteran's length of service, geographical area of service, and rank.
- Encourage veterans' organizations to participate in the program.
- Create a pamphlet that encouraged schools to use the experiences of veterans in the course of their educational instruction.
- Distribute the pamphlet to all the school districts in Michigan.
- Provide a system of receiving evaluations of the speakers and the program from teachers and students who used the program.
- Update the list of available veteran speakers at least annually. The Directorate could make the list available on the Internet through the Department's web site.

The bill specifies that the speakers program would not be a replacement for any instruction required by any other law, and the bill would not require a teacher to participate in the program. A teacher who chose to participate could tailor the subject matter and select the veteran whom he or she determined was most appropriate for the students.

The Director of the Directorate would have to report annually to the Senate and House committees having jurisdiction over veterans affairs regarding the program's merits and use.

Legislative Analyst: G. Towne

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Since the Veterans' Affairs Directorate would be permitted, but not required, to carry out the bill's provisions, the departmental cost of compliance with the bill could range from zero dollars to approximately \$50,000 per year. Should the Department choose to do so, it could implement the bill's provisions by using its existing resources, including the Department's existing Internet website. A more comprehensive approach to the creation of a veterans speakers program could require the Directorate to hire an additional staff person at an additional annual cost of \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Date Completed: 3-31-00

Fiscal Analyst: B. Baker