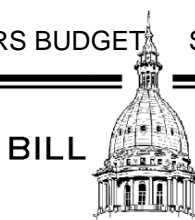




**Senate Fiscal Agency**  
**P. O. Box 30036**  
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# BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 773 (S-1, Draft 2)  
 Committee: Appropriations

*Throughout this document Senate means Subcommittee.*

<b>FY 2013-14 Year-to-Date Gross Appropriation .....</b>	<b>\$177,130,000</b>
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## Changes from FY 2013-14 Year-to-Date:

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| 1. <b>National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.</b> Governor and Senate recommended \$5.0 million GF/GP to implement a tuition assistance program for members of Michigan Air and Army National Guard to increase readiness, recruitment, and retention, covering 100% of tuition, up to \$4,500 per year.            | 5,000,000    |
| 2. <b>Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA).</b> Governor and Senate recommended additional funding of \$1.2 million GF/GP to support full staffing and CSS&M costs.   | 1,200,000    |
| 3. <b>MVAA Regional Coordinators.</b> Governor and Senate recommended funding of \$750,000 GF/GP for additional 10 contracted employees from the Veterans Service Coalition to manage and monitor regional workloads of veterans' services and to provide for funding for performance incentives for service officers. | 750,000      |
| 4. <b>County Veterans Service Offices Incentives.</b> Governor and Senate included \$250,000 GF/GP to support claims processing technology for county offices, adding new county veterans service officers and for the creation of new offices.  | 250,000      |
| 5. <b>Veterans Homes Special Maintenance.</b> Governor and Senate added \$3.0 million GF/GP one-time appropriation for special maintenance at the state veterans' homes.   | 3,000,000    |
| 6. <b>Veterans Advice, Advocacy, and Assistance Grants.</b> The Senate added a total of \$857,900 GF/GP for grant program, which included the shift of \$607,900 from new maintenance funding and \$250,000 from available funds from MVAA administration, bringing the FY 2014 grant total to \$3,762,500 GF/GP.      | 607,900      |
| 7. <b>Armory Special Maintenance.</b> Governor added \$4.0 million GF/GP one-time appropriation for special maintenance at state armories. Senate shifted \$607,900 of these funds to Veterans Advice, Advocacy and Assistance grants.   | 3,342,100    |
| 8. <b>Legal Services.</b> Senate added funds for MVAA to allow for representation before a Federal court.  | 50,000       |
| 9. <b>One-Time Appropriations for FY 2013-14.</b> The Governor and Senate removed one-time FY 2013-14 appropriations of \$5,500,000 GF/GP for Veterans Service Delivery Initiative (\$3,965,000), MVAA Computer Upgrade (\$1,500,000), and County Counselor Training conference (\$45,000).                            | (5,500,000)  |
| 10. <b>Adjustment for FY 2013-14 Supplemental Appropriations.</b>  | (10,400,000) |
| 11. <b>Grand Rapids Home Funding Adjustment.</b> Governor shifted \$225,000 in Restricted funding to GF/GP to reflect lower collection and maintain service levels.  | 0            |
| 12. <b>Reductions to Reflect Actual Restricted Revenues Received.</b> The Governor recommended reductions across several budget lines to reflect actual anticipated Restricted/Federal revenue.  | (3,125,000)  |
| 13. <b>Economic Adjustments.</b> Includes a negative \$463,500 Gross and a negative \$132,100 GF/GP for OPEB and \$1,753,300 Gross and \$509,500 GF/GP for other economic adjustments.   | 1,289,900    |
| 14. <b>Comparison to Governor's Recommendation.</b> Senate was \$0 Gross and \$0 GF/GP above Governor's Recommendation.  |              |

<b>Total Changes .....</b>	<b>(\$3,535,100)</b>
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<b>FY 2014-15 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Gross Appropriation.....</b>	<b>\$173,594,900</b>
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**Changes from FY 2013-14 Year-to-Date:**

1. **Legacy Costs.** Governor and Senate added new language which states the legacy costs for pensions and health care within the appropriations in part 1. (Sec. 231)
2. **Armory Maintenance Quarterly Reports.** Senate added language requiring quarterly reports on the list of maintenance projects and their respective costs, which are funded from special maintenance in part 1. (Sec. 302 (4))
3. **Youth Challenge Program.** Governor and Senate added new language sections, including subsection (4) which requires steps to be taken to recruit candidates from the economically disadvantaged and subsection (5) which requires a partnership with the DHS to identify eligible youth from DHS programs and to give priority to these youth for enrollment in the program. (Sec. 307)
4. **Starbase Grant.** Senate added language which states the goals and guidelines for the Federal pass-through educational program for K-12 students in the State. (Sec. 309)
5. **National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.** Senate added language which provides a description and guidelines for a new tuition assistance program for guard members. (Sec. 310)
6. **Information Technology Services and Project.** Senate added language describing the use for this appropriation. (Sec. 311)
7. **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.** Governor and Senate removed a numerical metric from within subsection (4) which requires staffing and resources to approve "5,295" requests for military discharge certificates (DD-214) for the fiscal year. (Sec. 401)
8. **Veterans' Outreach.** Senate added language requiring communication of benefit eligibility information to at least 50%, rather than the current year 35% of the State's 680,417 veterans. The Senate also added the goal of such outreach shall be 100%. Language was also added that the MVAA enable 100% of veterans to access benefit information on line. (Sec. 401 (2))
9. **Fully Developed Claims.** Senate changed the requirement that the minimum percentage of fully developed claims by MVAA staff, county counselors, and veterans service organizations shall increase from 20% to 40% of claims submitted. (Sec. 401 (8), (14) and Sec. 402 (2))
10. **Digitization of Medical Records Quarterly Reports.** Senate added language requiring a quarterly report on the progress toward completion of the effort to digitize all medical records which are currently on paper and microfilm. (Sec. 401 (5))
11. **Legal Services.** Senate added language providing for MVAA legal services. (Sec. 402)
12. **Veterans Advice, Advocacy, and Assistance Grants.** Senate added language which requires that the MVAA ensure that each VSO that receives a grant is issued performance standards, requires that each VSO receiving a grant uses those funds for veterans advocacy and outreach, and requires the MVAA to monitor their performance. (Sec. 403 (4), (5), (6))
13. **County Counselor Training.** Senate added language requiring the MVAA to develop a process to ensure all county veterans counselors receive the training and accreditation necessary to provide quality services to veterans. (Sec. 401 (12))
14. **Veterans Homes.** Governor and Senate removed subsection (25), which required a detailed report to subcommittees documenting the complaint management process utilized by the Grand Rapids Veterans Home by November 30, 2013. (Sec. 501)
15. **Posting of Complaint Process.** Senate added language requiring the posting of how visitors, residents, and employees may register a complaint with the State's veterans homes. (Sec. 501 (16)) and Sec. 503 (16)
16. **Board of Managers.** Senate added language describing the responsibilities of the Board of Managers, which oversees the operations of the State's veterans homes. (Secs. 502 and 504)
17. **Special Maintenance for Headquarters and Armories and Veterans Homes.** Senate added language describing the use for appropriations for Special Maintenance – Headquarters and Armories and for Special Maintenance – Veterans Homes, in both the boilerplate section concerning ongoing appropriations and in the section dealing with one-time appropriations. (Secs. 602, 603, 701, 702)
18. **Elimination of FY 2013-14 One-time Appropriations Boilerplate.** (Secs. 701, 702, 703)
19. **FY 2015-16 Appropriations.** Senate added language requiring the MVAA to maintain a minimum 50% fully developed claims as determined by the DVA. (Sec. 1204)

Date Completed: 4-17-14

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