

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5536

A bill to amend 1953 PA 192, entitled

"An act to create a county department of veterans' affairs in certain counties, and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to transfer the powers and duties of the soldiers' relief commission in such counties,"

(MCL 35.621 to 35.624) by amending the title and by adding section 3a.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

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TITLE

An act to create a county department of veterans' affairs in certain counties, and to prescribe its powers and duties; **TO CREATE THE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE FUND AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND EXPENDITURES FROM THAT FUND;** and to transfer the powers and duties of the soldiers' relief commission in ~~such~~ **THOSE** counties.

**SEC. 3A. (1) THE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE FUND IS CREATED WITHIN THE STATE TREASURY.**

1           (2) THE STATE TREASURER MAY RECEIVE MONEY OR OTHER ASSETS FROM  
2 ANY SOURCE FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL  
3 DIRECT THE INVESTMENT OF THE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT  
4 TO THE FUND INTEREST AND EARNINGS FROM FUND INVESTMENTS.

5           (3) MONEY IN THE FUND AT THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR SHALL  
6 REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT LAPSE TO THE GENERAL FUND.

7           (4) THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL BE THE  
8 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FUND FOR AUDITING PURPOSES.

9           (5) THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL CREATE AND  
10 OPERATE A GRANT PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES GRANTS TO COUNTIES FOR COUNTY  
11 VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS. THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY  
12 SHALL MAKE GRANTS FROM THE FUND, UPON APPROPRIATION, TO EACH COUNTY  
13 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS THAT MEETS THE CONDITIONS LISTED IN  
14 SUBSECTION (7) FOR THE SOLE USE OF THE COUNTY'S VETERAN SERVICE  
15 OPERATIONS. THE TOTAL DISBURSEMENT FOR EACH GRANT SHALL BE  
16 DETERMINED BY COMBINING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

17           (A) A BASE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00

18           (B) A PER CAPITA AMOUNT ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF VETERANS  
19 RESIDING IN EACH COUNTY. THE AMOUNT IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE  
20 DETERMINED BY DIVIDING THE AMOUNT REMAINING IN THE FUND AFTER  
21 ACCOUNTING FOR ALL DISBURSEMENTS UNDER SUBDIVISION (A) BY THE TOTAL  
22 NUMBER OF VETERANS RESIDING IN THIS STATE AND MULTIPLYING THE  
23 RESULTING DOLLAR AMOUNT BY THE NUMBER OF VETERANS RESIDING IN THE  
24 COUNTY RECEIVING THE GRANT. POPULATION FIGURES FOR VETERANS  
25 RESIDING IN THIS STATE AND IN EACH COUNTY OF THIS STATE SHALL BE  
26 OBTAINED FROM THE MOST RECENT GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA  
27 EXPENDITURES (GDX) REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT

1 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

2 (6) IF THE AMOUNT REMAINING IN THE FUND AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR  
3 ALL DISBURSEMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (5) (A) IS LESS THAN THE AMOUNT  
4 OBTAINED BY MULTIPLYING \$1,000.00 BY THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES  
5 RECEIVING GRANTS, THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL NOT  
6 PERFORM A CALCULATION UNDER SUBSECTION (5) (B) AND SHALL NOT  
7 DISBURSE THE PORTION OF GRANT FUNDS DESCRIBED UNDER THAT  
8 SUBSECTION.

9 (7) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER SUBSECTION (5) ,  
10 WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT  
11 ADDED THIS SECTION, AND ANNUALLY AFTER THAT DATE, A COUNTY  
12 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS MUST SATISFY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
13 AS CERTIFIED IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE MICHIGAN  
14 VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY:

15 (A) MAINTAIN A MINIMUM LEVEL OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR VETERAN  
16 SERVICE OPERATIONS EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR VETERAN  
17 SERVICE OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR PRECEDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
18 OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SECTION.

19 (B) ESTABLISH REMOTE ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
20 VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPUTING SYSTEMS AND REQUIRE COUNTY VETERAN  
21 SERVICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN A PIV CARD.

22 (C) SUBMIT QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS  
23 AGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DETERMINED BY  
24 THAT AGENCY.

25 (D) PROVIDE NO LESS THAN 20 HOURS PER WEEK TOWARD VETERAN  
26 SERVICE OPERATIONS.

27 (E) SUBMIT FINANCIAL REPORTS TO THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS

1 AGENCY ON A REGULAR BASIS, AS DETERMINED BY THAT AGENCY,  
2 DEMONSTRATING THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
3 EXPENDED THE GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (5) DIRECTLY AND  
4 SOLELY ON VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE  
5 REPORT. IF THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY DETERMINES, BY  
6 AUDIT OR OTHERWISE, THAT A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
7 EXPENDED THE GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (5) FOR PURPOSES  
8 OTHER THAN VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, THE MICHIGAN VETERANS  
9 AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL REDUCE THE GRANT DISBURSEMENT PROVIDED TO THE  
10 COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS IN THE SUCCEEDING FISCAL  
11 YEAR BY AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE TOTAL OF ALL AMOUNTS IMPROPERLY  
12 EXPENDED.

13 (8) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

14 (A) "ACCREDITED VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL  
15 WHO HAS MET THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION UNDER 38 USC 5904  
16 AND 38 CFR 14.629.

17 (B) "COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE FUND" OR "FUND" MEANS THE FUND  
18 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1).

19 (C) "PIV CARD" MEANS A PERSONAL IDENTITY VERIFICATION CARD  
20 ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

21 (D) "VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS" MEANS ASSISTANCE AND  
22 PROGRAMMING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN THIS STATE. VETERAN  
23 SERVICE OPERATIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PROVIDING  
24 ADVICE, ADVOCACY, AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS, SERVICEMEMBERS,  
25 DEPENDENTS, OR SURVIVORS BY AN ACCREDITED VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER  
26 TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH,  
27 FINANCIAL, OR MEMORIAL BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE.

1           Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
2   after the date it is enacted into law.