

HOUSE BILL No. 5536

February 8, 2018, Introduced by Reps. Wentworth, Albert, Hoitenga, Lower, Kahle, Calley, Hauck, Hornberger, Marino, Lucido, Hughes, Farrington, LaFave, Noble, Barrett, VanderWall, Bellino, Griffin, Crawford, Garcia, Webber, Kelly, Rendon, Whiteford, Graves, Brann, Roberts, Frederick, Sheppard, Victory, Allor, Lilly, Sabo, Glenn, Kosowski and Leutheuser and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

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:

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 counties.

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

(2) THE STATE TREASURER MAY RECEIVE MONEY OR OTHER ASSETS FROM

1 ANY SOURCE FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
2 DIRECT THE INVESTMENT OF THE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT
3 TO THE FUND INTEREST AND EARNINGS FROM FUND INVESTMENTS.

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

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

8 (5) THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL CREATE AND
9 OPERATE A GRANT PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES GRANTS TO COUNTIES FOR COUNTY
10 VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS. THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
11 SHALL MAKE GRANTS FROM THE FUND, UPON APPROPRIATION, TO EACH COUNTY
12 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS THAT MEETS THE CONDITIONS LISTED IN
13 SUBSECTION (6) FOR THE SOLE USE OF THE COUNTY'S VETERAN SERVICE
14 OPERATIONS. THE TOTAL DISBURSEMENT FOR EACH GRANT SHALL BE
15 DETERMINED BY COMBINING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

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

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

1 (6) AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER SUBSECTION (5) ,
2 WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT
3 ADDED THIS SECTION, A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS MUST
4 SATISFY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

5 (A) MAINTAIN A MINIMUM LEVEL OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR VETERAN
6 SERVICE OPERATIONS EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR VETERAN
7 SERVICE OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR PRECEDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE
8 OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SECTION.

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

12 (C) SUBMIT QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS
13 AGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DETERMINED BY
14 THAT AGENCY.

15 (D) PROVIDE NO LESS THAN 20 HOURS PER MONTH TOWARD VETERAN
16 SERVICE OPERATIONS.

17 (7) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

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

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

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

25 (D) "VETERAN SERVICE OPERATIONS" MEANS ASSISTANCE AND
26 PROGRAMMING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN THIS STATE. VETERANS
27 SERVICE OPERATIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PROVIDING

1 ADVICE, ADVOCACY, AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS, SERVICEMEMBERS,
2 DEPENDENTS, OR SURVIVORS BY AN ACCREDITED VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER
3 TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH,
4 FINANCIAL, OR MEMORIAL BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE.

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