



Senate Fiscal Agency
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bills 207 and 208 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Senator Kevin Hertel (S.B. 207)

Senator Roger Hauck (S.B. 208)

Committee: Veterans and Emergency Services

CONTENT

Senate Bill 208 would enact the "Michigan Veterans Coalition Grant Program Act" to do the following:

- Create the Michigan Veterans Coalition Grant Program to provide grants to veteran service organizations to be spent in support of veteran service operations in the State.
- Require the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to administer the Program's grants from the Michigan Veterans Coalition Fund created under Senate Bill 207.
- Prescribe eligibility requirements for veteran service organizations.

Senate Bill 207 would enact the "Michigan Veterans Coalition Fund Act" to create the Fund within the Department of Treasury and require the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to spend money from the Fund upon appropriation for the Michigan Veterans Coalition Grant Program proposed under Senate Bill 208.

The bills are tie-barred.

BRIEF RATIONALE

The bills would create a grant program administered by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to help fund veterans service organizations that engage in veterans' service operations, such as assisting veterans in obtaining Federal Veterans Affairs health benefits. Veteran service organizations, such as the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serve with the purpose of connecting veterans and their dependents with benefits and services for which they are eligible. Some believe that the State has a duty to support veterans in Michigan who need help identifying and applying for benefits, and so the bills have been suggested.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

Senate Bills 207 and 208 are respectively reintroductions of Senate Bills 541 and 540 of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Senate Bills 541 and 540 passed the Senate and were referred to the House but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Alex Krabill

FISCAL IMPACT

The bills would have no fiscal impact on State or local government. They simply would place in statute the current practice of providing guidelines for the administration of appropriations of grants to veterans' service organizations, add the requirement that such appropriations be placed in the Fund in Treasury for expenditure, and require that those funds not lapse to the General Fund at the end of a fiscal year. Funding for the bills' provisions would depend upon

budget bill appropriations made for that purpose. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, appropriations for veterans' service grants include \$4.3 million General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP). Placing the Program in statute and creating the Michigan Veterans Coalition Fund would mirror that which was established for the county veteran service grant program (also receiving \$4.3 GF/GP in the current year budget), which was created in statute under Public Act 210 of 2018.

Senate Bill 207 would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Treasury. Based on the level of estimated revenue likely to be appropriated to the Fund, ongoing costs associated with administration and investment would be minimal. Current appropriations would be sufficient to carry out these activities.

Date Completed: 5-14-25

Fiscal Analysts: Bruce R. Baker
Bobby Canell
Elizabeth Raczkowski

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.