

FEB 5 2004
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 2168
BY LUKAN

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a board to oversee the administration of the
2 veterans trust fund.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2168

1 Section 1. Section 35A.13, subsection 2, Code Supplement
2 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3 2. A veterans trust fund is created in the state treasury
4 under the control of the commission veterans trust fund board.

5 a. The board shall consist of five members appointed by
6 the governor subject to confirmation by the senate to
7 staggered terms of four years commencing and ending as
8 provided in section 69.19. The commission shall provide staff
9 as necessary for board operations.

10 b. All members of the board must be members of a veterans
11 organization that holds a federal charter from the United
12 States government.

13 c. The members shall be paid a per diem as specified in
14 section 7E.6 and shall be reimbursed for necessary and actual
15 expenses incurred in attending meetings and in the performance
16 of their duties.

17 Sec. 2. Section 35A.13, subsection 5, Code Supplement
18 2003, is amended to read as follows:

19 5. The minimum balance of the trust fund required prior to
20 expenditure of moneys from the trust fund is fifty million
21 dollars. Once the minimum balance is reached, the interest
22 and earnings on the fund and any moneys received under
23 subsection 3, paragraph "a", are appropriated to the
24 commission board to be used to achieve the purposes of this
25 section.

26 Sec. 3. Section 35A.13, subsection 6, Code Supplement
27 2003, is amended to read as follows:

28 6. Moneys appropriated to the commission board under this
29 section shall not be used to supplant funding previously
30 provided by other sources. The moneys may be expended upon a
31 majority vote of the commission board membership for the
32 benefit of veterans and the spouses and dependents of
33 veterans, for any of the following purposes:

34 a. College tuition aid.

35 b. Job training aid.

1 ~~e. Expenses relating to an individual receiving care by a~~
2 ~~nursing facility that are not payable by any other sources.~~

3 ~~d. c.~~ Benefits provided to children of disabled or
4 deceased veterans.

5 ~~e. d.~~ Unemployment aid needed during a veteran's
6 unemployment due to prolonged illness or disability resulting
7 from military service. A diagnosed case of mental distress
8 due to military service-related activities shall be included
9 as a disability under this paragraph.

10 ~~f. e.~~ Other purposes identified by the commission board.
11 Sec. 4. Section 35A.13, Code Supplement 2003, is amended
12 by adding the following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Any person aggrieved or adversely
14 affected by a decision of the board may request a contested
15 case hearing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 17A.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The veterans trust fund is currently administered by the
18 state commission of veterans affairs. This bill creates a
19 five-member board to administer the fund. All members must be
20 a member of a veterans organization which holds a federal
21 charter. The bill also precludes using the fund to pay
22 nursing facility care expenses for veterans and their spouses
23 and their dependents.

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