

Comment Report

SF 181

A bill for an act relating to the home ownership assistance program, and making an appropriation.
(Formerly SSB 1044.)

Subcommittee Members: Johnson-CH, Dotzler, Lofgren

Date: 02/11/2021

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: RM 111

Name: R. Bruce Beeston

Comment: This bill is best described as a raid on the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. Moving funding of the Veterans Home Ownership Assistance Program from a General Fund appropriation to the VTF is an illconceived idea that takes away significant resources away from the Commission of Veterans Affairs to directly assist needy veterans. Requests for assistance are increasing, and projected to increase as Gulf War and Afghanistan Vets' health and PTSD issues prevent them from earning a living wage. As I understand past performance of the Home Ownership Program, it currently has approximately \$1 million of unused funds. My suggestion. Kill this bill and put the existing funds to work. One thought. Increase funding for construction or remodeling homes for disabled veterans.