

CHAPTER 35A

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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35A.1 Definitions.

1. “*Commandant*” means the commandant of the Iowa veterans home appointed in section 35D.13.
2. “*Commission*” means the commission of veterans affairs established in section 35A.2.
3. “*Commissioner*” means a member of the commission of veterans affairs.
4. “*Department*” means the Iowa department of veterans affairs established in section 35A.4.
5. “*Director*” means the executive director appointed pursuant to section 35A.8. [C79, 81, §35A.1]
86 Acts, ch 1245, §1704; 92 Acts, ch 1140, §7; 2000 Acts, ch 1058, §7; 2005 Acts, ch 115, §9, 40

35A.2 Commission of veterans affairs.

1. A commission of veterans affairs is created consisting of nine persons who shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. Members shall be appointed to staggered terms of four years beginning and ending as provided in section 69.19. The governor shall fill a vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. In addition to the members appointed by the governor, the director of the department and the commandant of the Iowa veterans home shall serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the commission.

2. Eight commissioners shall be honorably discharged members of the armed forces of the United States. The American legion of Iowa, disabled American veterans department of Iowa, veterans of foreign wars department of Iowa, American veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, the Vietnam veterans of America, and the military order of the purple heart, through their department commanders, shall submit two names respectively from their organizations to the governor. The adjutant general and the Iowa affiliate of the reserve officers association shall submit names to the governor of persons to represent the Iowa national guard and the association. The governor shall appoint from the group of names submitted by the adjutant general and reserve officers association two representatives and from each of the other organizations one representative to serve as a member of the commission, unless the appointments would conflict with the bipartisan and gender balance provisions of sections 69.16 and 69.16A. In addition, the governor shall appoint one member of the public, knowledgeable in the general field of veterans affairs, to serve on the commission.

3. a. The commissioners are entitled to receive reimbursement for actual expenses

incurred while engaged in the performance of official duties. Each member of the commission may also be eligible to receive compensation as provided in section 7E.6.

b. The executive director, commandant, and employees of the department and the Iowa veterans home are entitled to receive, in addition to salary, reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of official duties.

c. All out-of-state travel by commissioners shall be approved by the chairperson of the commission.

[C31, §446-c1; C35, §467-f42; C39, §467.44; C46, 50, §29.44; C54, 58, 62, §29.12; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §29A.12; C79, 81, §35A.2; 81 Acts, ch 33, §1]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1705, 1706; 92 Acts, ch 1140, §8; 95 Acts, ch 67, §6; 95 Acts, ch 161, §1, 2; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §222, 287; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §2; 2012 Acts, ch 1059, §1

Referred to in §7E.5, 35A.1, 35A.12, 35D.1, 35D.14

[P] Confirmation, see §2.32

35A.3 Duties of the commission.

The commission shall do all of the following:

1. Organize and annually select a chairperson.
2. Review and approve, prior to adoption, all proposed rules submitted by the department concerning the management and operation of the department and programs administered by the department.

3. a. Advise and make recommendations to the department, the general assembly, and the governor concerning issues involving and impacting veterans in this state.

b. Advise and make recommendations to the general assembly and the governor concerning the management and operation of the department.

4. Supervise the commandant's administration of commission policy for the operations and conduct of the Iowa veterans home.

5. Conduct an equal number of meetings at Camp Dodge and the Iowa veterans home. The agenda for each meeting shall include a reasonable time period for public comment.

6. Provide guidance and make recommendations to the department during an annual review of the department's proposed budget and provide guidance and make recommendations for budget changes that occur during the fiscal year.

7. Consult with the department regarding certification training for executive directors and administrators of county commissions of veteran affairs pursuant to section 35B.6.

[C39, §482.01; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §35.1; C79, 81, §35A.3]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1707; 92 Acts, ch 1140, §9; 94 Acts, ch 1107, §3; 95 Acts, ch 161, §3; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §223; 2005 Acts, ch 115, §10, 11, 40; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §3; 2011 Acts, ch 74, §1, 2

Referred to in §35A.5

35A.4 Department established.

There is established an Iowa department of veterans affairs which shall consist of a commission, an executive director, and any additional personnel as employed by the executive director.

2005 Acts, ch 115, §12, 40

Referred to in §35.1, 35A.1, 36.1

35A.5 Duties of the department.

The department shall do all of the following:

1. Maintain and disseminate information to veterans and the public regarding facilities, benefits, and services available to veterans and their families and assist veterans and their families in obtaining such benefits and services.

2. Maintain information and data concerning the military service records of Iowa veterans.

3. Assist county veteran affairs commissions established pursuant to chapter 35B. The department shall provide to county commissions suggested uniform benefits and administrative procedures for carrying out the functions and duties of the county commissions.

4. Permanently maintain the records including certified records of bonus applications for awards paid.

5. *a.* Coordinate with United States department of veterans affairs hospitals, health care facilities, and clinics in this state and the department of public health to provide assistance to veterans and their families to reduce the incidence of alcohol and chemical dependency and suicide among veterans and to make mental health counseling available to veterans.

b. The assistance program shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Public education and awareness programs for veterans, health care professionals, and the public, relative to the needs of veterans.

(2) Referral services to identify appropriate counseling and treatment programs for veterans in need of services.

c. Any assistance program established pursuant to this subsection shall be implemented in a manner that does not duplicate other services readily available to veterans.

6. Conduct one service school each year for county commissioners and one service school for executive directors and administrators. The service school for executive directors and administrators shall provide at least sixteen continuing education units.

7. Assist the United States department of veterans affairs, the Iowa veterans home, funeral directors, and federally chartered veterans service organizations in providing information concerning veterans service records and veterans affairs data.

8. Maintain alphabetically a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who served in the military or naval forces of the United States in time of war and whose mortal remains rest in Iowa.

9. After consultation with the commission, provide certification training to executive directors and administrators of county commissions of veteran affairs pursuant to section 35B.6. Training provided under this subsection shall include accreditation by the national association of county veteran service officers. Training provided by the department shall be certified by the national association of county veteran service officers and, in addition, shall ensure that each executive director and administrator is proficient in the use of electronic mail, general computer use, and use of the internet to access information regarding facilities, benefits, and services available to veterans and their families. The department may adopt rules in accordance with chapter 17A to provide for training of county veteran affairs executive directors and administrators.

10. Establish and operate a state veterans cemetery and make application to the government of the United States or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, for funds for the purpose of establishing such a cemetery.

a. The department may enter into agreements with any subdivision of the state for assistance in operating the cemetery.

b. The state shall own the land on which the cemetery is located.

c. The department shall have the authority to accept federal grant funds, funding from state subdivisions, donations from private sources, and federal "plot allowance" payments.

d. The department through the director shall have the authority to accept suitable cemetery land, in accordance with federal veterans cemetery grant guidelines, from the federal government, state government, state subdivisions, private sources, and any other source wishing to transfer land for use as a veterans cemetery.

e. The department may lease or use property received pursuant to this subsection for any purpose so long as such leasing or use does not interfere with the use of the property for cemetery purposes and is not contrary to federal or state guidelines.

f. All funds received pursuant to this subsection, including lease payments or funds generated from any activity engaged in on any property accepted pursuant to this subsection, shall be deposited into an account dedicated to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a veterans cemetery and these funds shall be expended only for those purposes.

g. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any moneys in the account for a state veterans cemetery shall not revert and, notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to the account.

11. Authorize the sale, trade, or transfer of veterans commemorative property pursuant to chapter 37A.

12. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A and establish policy for the management and

operation of the department. Prior to adopting rules, the department shall submit proposed rules to the commission for review and approval pursuant to the requirements of section 35A.3.

13. Provide information requested by the commission concerning the management and operation of the department and the programs administered by the department.

14. Annually, by August 31, prepare and submit a report to the governor and the general assembly relating to county commissions of veteran affairs. Copies of the report shall also be provided to each county board of supervisors and to each county commission of veteran affairs by electronic means. Pursuant to section 35B.11, the department may request any information necessary to prepare the report from each county commission of veteran affairs. The report shall include all of the following:

a. Information related to compliance with the training requirements under section 35B.6 during the previous calendar year.

b. The weekly operating schedule of each county commission of veteran affairs office maintained under section 35B.6.

c. The number of hours of veterans' services provided by each county commission of veteran affairs executive director or administrator during the previous calendar year.

d. Population of each county, including the number of veterans residing in each county.

e. The total amount of compensation, disability benefits, or pensions received by the residents of each county under laws administered by the United States department of veterans affairs.

f. An analysis of the information contained in paragraphs "a" through "e", including an analysis of such information for previous years.

15. Upon receipt of certificate of release or discharge from active duty, create a roster of information that includes the name of the military member, the member's address of record, and the member's county of residence listed on the certificate. The department shall, within thirty days of receipt of the certificate of release or discharge from active duty, provide a copy of the roster to the county commission of veteran affairs in each county listed on the roster.

16. In coordination with the department of public defense, advise service members prior to, and after returning from, deployment on active duty service outside the United States of issues related to the filing of tax returns and the payment of taxes due and encourage a service member who has not filed a return or who owes taxes to contact the department of revenue prior to deployment.

17. Carry out the policies of the department.

2005 Acts, ch 115, §13, 40; 2006 Acts, ch 1107, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1185, §65; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §4, 5; 2008 Acts, ch 1031, §20; 2008 Acts, ch 1130, §1, 10; 2009 Acts, ch 26, §4; 2009 Acts, ch 122, §1; 2010 Acts, ch 1102, §1; 2011 Acts, ch 45, §1; 2011 Acts, ch 74, §3; 2012 Acts, ch 1059, §2 - 4; 2013 Acts, ch 29, §39

Referred to in §35A.17, 35B.6
[T] Subsection 16 amended

35A.6 and 35A.7 Repealed by 92 Acts, ch 1140, § 38.

35A.8 Executive director — term — duties.

1. The governor shall appoint an executive director, subject to confirmation by the senate, who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The executive director is responsible for administering the duties of the department and the commission other than those related to the Iowa veterans home.

2. The executive director shall be a resident of the state of Iowa and an honorably discharged veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States during a conflict or war. As used in this section, the dates of service in a conflict or war shall coincide with the dates of service established by the Congress of the United States.

3. Except for the employment duties and responsibilities assigned to the commandant for the Iowa veterans home, the executive director shall employ such personnel as are necessary for the performance of the duties and responsibilities assigned to the department and the commission. All employees shall be selected on a basis of fitness for the work to be performed

with due regard to training and experience and shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 8A, subchapter IV.

[C79, 81, §35A.8]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1710; 92 Acts, ch 1140, §10; 92 Acts, ch 1247, §28; 99 Acts, ch 180, §5; 2000 Acts, ch 1218, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §148; 2005 Acts, ch 115, §14, 40; 2007 Acts, ch 176, §1, 3; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §6; 2008 Acts, ch 1031, §21; 2008 Acts, ch 1191, §35, 36, 106; 2012 Acts, ch 1059, §5

Referred to in §35A.1
[P] Confirmation, see §2.32

35A.8A Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus — limited residency requirement — appropriation. Repealed by its own terms; 2008 Acts, ch 1131, §1.

35A.9 Expenses and compensation. Repealed by 2012 Acts, ch 1059, § 14. See § 35A.2(3).

35A.10 Multiyear construction program — construction, repair, and improvement projects.

1. The commission shall work with the department of administrative services to prepare and submit to the director of the department of management, as provided in section 8.23, a multiyear construction program including estimates of the expenditure requirements for the construction, repair, or improvement of buildings, grounds, or equipment at the commission of veterans affairs building at Camp Dodge and the Iowa veterans home in Marshalltown.

2. The commandant and the commission shall have plans and specifications prepared by the department of administrative services for authorized construction, repair, or improvement projects in excess of the competitive bid threshold in section 26.3, or as established in section 314.1B. An appropriation for a project shall not be expended until the department of administrative services has adopted plans and specifications and has completed a detailed estimate of the cost of the project, prepared under the supervision of a registered architect or licensed professional engineer.

3. The director of the department of administrative services shall, in writing, let all contracts for authorized improvements in excess of the competitive bid threshold in section 26.3, or as established in section 314.1B in accordance with chapter 8A, subchapter III, and chapter 26. The director of the department of administrative services shall not authorize payment for construction purposes until satisfactory proof has been furnished by the proper officer or supervising architect that the parties have complied with the contract.

96 Acts, ch 1218, §29; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §149; 2006 Acts, ch 1017, §18, 42, 43; 2007 Acts, ch 126, §14

35A.11 Veterans license fee fund.

A veterans license fee fund is created in the state treasury under the control of the commission. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest or earnings on moneys in the veterans license fee fund shall be credited to the veterans license fee fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the commission to be used to fulfill the responsibilities of the commission. The fund shall include the fees credited by the treasurer of state from the sale of the following special motor vehicle registration plates:

1. Veteran special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 13, paragraph “d”.
2. National guard special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 16.
3. Pearl Harbor special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 17.
4. Purple heart special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 18.
5. United States armed forces retired special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 19.
6. Silver star and bronze star special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 20.
7. Distinguished service cross, navy cross, and air force cross special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 20A.

8. Soldier's medal, navy and marine corps medal, and airman's medal special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 20B.

9. Combat infantryman badge, combat action badge, combat action ribbon, air force combat action medal, and combat medical badge plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 20C.

10. Gold star special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 24.

99 Acts, ch 201, §8; 2007 Acts, ch 178, §1, 3; 2007 Acts, ch 184, §1, 7; 2011 Acts, ch 114, §1
Referred to in §321.34

35A.12 Military honor guard services.

An honor guard unit made up of members of a recognized military veterans organization as listed in section 35A.2 or 37.2, the Iowa national guard, the reserve forces of the United States, the United States coast guard auxiliary, or a reserve officers training corps shall be allowed to perform any honor guard service on public property.

2001 Acts, ch 96, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1037, §1; 2010 Acts, ch 1173, §1

35A.13 Veterans trust fund.

1. A veterans trust fund is created in the state treasury under the control of the commission.

2. The trust fund shall consist of all of the following:

a. Moneys in the form of a devise, gift, bequest, donation, federal or other grant, reimbursement, repayment, judgment, transfer, payment, or appropriation from any source intended to be used for the purposes of the trust fund.

b. Moneys credited to the fund pursuant to an income tax checkoff provided in chapter 422, division II, if applicable.

c. Interest attributable to investment of moneys in the fund or an account of the trust fund. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the trust fund shall be credited to the trust fund.

3. Moneys credited to the trust fund shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered, except as provided in this section. Moneys in the trust fund may be used for cash flow purposes during a fiscal year provided that any moneys so allocated are returned to the trust fund by the end of that fiscal year. Moneys in the trust fund may also be used for cemetery grant development purposes provided that any moneys so allocated are returned to the trust fund upon receipt of federal funds received for such purposes.

4. a. The minimum balance of the trust fund required prior to expenditure of moneys from the trust fund is five million dollars. Once the minimum balance is reached, the interest and earnings on the fund and the first three hundred thousand dollars transferred each fiscal year pursuant to section 99G.9A from the lottery fund to the trust fund are appropriated to the commission to be used to achieve the purposes of subsection 6 of this section. Moneys appropriated to the commission that remain unobligated or unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall revert to the trust fund. It is the intent of the general assembly that the balance in the trust fund reach fifty million dollars.

b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", moneys credited to the war orphans educational assistance account shall be expended as provided in subsection 7.

5. It is the intent of the general assembly that beginning with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, appropriations be made annually to the veterans trust fund. Prior to any additional appropriations to this fund, the department shall provide the general assembly with information identifying immediate and long-term veteran services throughout the state and a plan for delivering those services.

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

a. Travel expenses for wounded veterans, and their spouses, directly related to follow-up medical care.

- b. Job training or college tuition assistance for job retraining.
 - c. Unemployment assistance during a period of unemployment due to prolonged physical or mental illness or disability resulting from military service.
 - d. Expenses related to the purchase of durable medical equipment or services to allow veterans to remain in their homes.
 - e. Expenses related to hearing care, dental care, vision care, or prescription drugs.
 - f. Individual counseling or family counseling programs.
 - g. Family support group programs or programs for children of members of the military.
 - h. Honor guard services.
 - i. Expenses related to ambulance and emergency room services for veterans who are trauma patients.
 - j. Emergency expenses related to vehicle repair, housing repair, or temporary housing assistance.
 - k. Expenses related to establishing whether a minor child is a dependent of a deceased veteran.
 - l. Matching funds to veterans organizations to provide for accredited veteran service officers. However, moneys expended for this purpose in a fiscal year shall not exceed the lesser of one hundred fifty thousand dollars or twenty percent of the moneys appropriated to the commission from interest and earnings on the fund in that fiscal year.
 - m. Expenses related to initial screening for any military service-connected traumatic brain injury sustained while on federal active duty, state active duty, or national guard duty, as defined in section 29A.1, or sustained while on federal reserve duty pursuant to orders issued under Tit. 10 of the United States Code for which payment or reimbursement is not otherwise available through any other federal or state program or, if applicable, through a veteran's private insurance or managed care organization. A veteran seeking moneys for expenses pursuant to this paragraph "m" shall not be subject to an income limit.
7. a. A war orphans educational assistance account shall be created as a separate account in the veterans trust fund and moneys in the account shall not be commingled with any other moneys within the fund. Moneys credited to the war orphans educational assistance account shall only be expended for the purposes of assisting in the education of orphaned children of veterans as provided in this subsection. Interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the account shall be credited to the account.
- b. (1) The commission may provide educational assistance funds to any child who has lived in the state of Iowa for two years preceding application for state educational assistance, and who is the child of a person who died prior to September 11, 2001, during active federal military service while serving in the armed forces or during active federal military service in the Iowa national guard or other military component of the United States, to defray the expenses of tuition, matriculation, laboratory and similar fees, books and supplies, board, lodging, and any other reasonably necessary expense for the child or children incident to attendance in this state at an educational or training institution of college grade, or in a business or vocational training school with standards approved by the department. The commission shall not expend more than six hundred dollars per year for educational assistance for any one child under this paragraph "b".
- (2) A child eligible to receive funds under this subsection shall not receive more than three thousand dollars under this paragraph "b" during the child's lifetime.
- c. (1) Upon application by a child who is less than thirty-one years of age, and who is the child of a person who died on or after September 11, 2001, during active federal military service while serving in the armed forces or during active federal military service in the Iowa national guard or other military component of the United States, and who at the time of entering into active military service had maintained the person's residence in the state for a period of at least six months immediately before entering into active military service, the commission shall provide state educational assistance in an amount of no more than the highest resident undergraduate tuition rate established per year for an institution of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents less the amount of any state and federal education benefits, grants, or scholarships received by the child, or the amount of the

child's established financial need, whichever is less, to defray the expenses of tuition at any postsecondary educational institution in this state.

(2) A child eligible to receive state educational assistance under this paragraph "c" shall begin postsecondary education prior to reaching age twenty-six, shall not receive more than an amount equal to five times the highest resident undergraduate tuition rate established per year for an institution of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents during the child's lifetime, and shall, to remain eligible for assistance, meet the academic progress standards of the postsecondary educational institution. Payments for state educational assistance for a child under this paragraph "c" shall be made to the applicable postsecondary educational institution. The college student aid commission may, if requested, assist the commission in administering this paragraph "c".

d. Eligibility for assistance pursuant to this subsection shall be determined upon application to the commission, whose decision is final. The eligibility of applicants shall be certified by the commission to the director of the department of administrative services in a timely manner, and all amounts that are or become due an individual or a training institution under this subsection shall be paid to the individual or institution by the director of the department of administrative services upon receipt by the director of certification by the president or governing board of the educational or training institution as to accuracy of charges made, and as to the attendance of the individual at the educational or training institution. The commission may pay over the annual sum set forth in this subsection to the educational or training institution in a lump sum, or in installments as the circumstances warrant, upon receiving from the institution such written undertaking as the department may require to assure the use of funds for the child for the authorized purposes and for no other purpose. A person is not eligible for the benefits of this subsection until the person has graduated from a high school or educational institution offering a course of training equivalent to high school training.

e. Any expense incurred in carrying out the provisions of this subsection shall be chargeable to the trust fund.

8. If the commission identifies other purposes for which the moneys appropriated under this section may be used for the benefit of veterans and the spouses and dependents of veterans, the commission shall submit recommendations for the addition of such purposes to the general assembly for review.

9. The commission shall submit an annual report to the general assembly by January 15 of each year concerning the veterans trust fund created by this section. The annual report shall include financial information concerning the moneys in the trust fund and shall also include information on the number, amount, and type of expenditures, if any, from the fund during the prior calendar year for the purposes described in subsection 6.

10. The department may adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 3, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the provisions of this section and the rules shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this subsection shall also be published as a notice of intended action as provided in section 17A.4.

11. It is the intent of the general assembly that beginning with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, appropriations be made as necessary to the war orphans educational assistance account of the veterans trust fund to pay all claims made pursuant to subsection 7. Prior to any additional appropriations to this account, the department shall provide the general assembly with information identifying immediate and long-term war orphans educational needs throughout the state and a plan for meeting those needs.

2003 Acts, ch 131, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1110, §1, 2; 2006 Acts, ch 1185, §66 – 68; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §7; 2008 Acts, ch 1012, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1129, §1, 2, 3, 9; 2009 Acts, ch 164, §2, 7; 2012 Acts, ch 1029, §1; 2012 Acts, ch 1097, §1, 6; 2012 Acts, ch 1139, §1; 2013 Acts, ch 91, §1 – 3; 2013 Acts, ch 98, §1; 2013 Acts, ch 140, §54

Referred to in §99G.9A, 422.7, 422.12L, 546B.2

[SP] FY 2007-2008 appropriation from veterans trust fund to Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus fund; moneys remaining after repeal of limited residency requirement for Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus to be transferred to veterans trust fund; expenditure limitation; 2007 Acts, ch 176, §3; 2008 Acts, ch 1187, §68; 2009 Acts, ch 182, §82, 87; 2010 Acts, ch 1192, §55, 73; 2011 Acts, ch 129, §52, 74

[SP] Subsection 2, paragraph b, applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012; 2012 Acts, ch 1097, §6

[SP] Moneys remaining in war orphans educational assistance fund on July 1, 2013, transferred to war orphans educational assistance account of the veterans trust fund; transition provisions for administration of war orphans educational assistance by commission of veterans affairs; 2013 Acts, ch 91, §5, 6

[T] Subsection 4 amended

[T] Subsection 6, NEW paragraph m

[T] NEW subsection 7 and former subsections 7 – 9 renumbered as 8 – 10

[T] NEW subsection 11

35A.14 Injured veterans grant program.

1. For the purposes of this section, “veteran” means any of the following:

a. A resident of this state who is or was a member of the national guard, reserve, or regular component of the armed forces of the United States who has served on active duty at any time after September 11, 2001, and, if discharged, was discharged under honorable conditions.

b. A nonresident of this state who is or was a member of a national guard unit located in this state prior to alert for mobilization who has served on active duty at any time after September 11, 2001, was injured while serving in the national guard unit located in this state, is not eligible to receive a similar grant from another state for that injury, and, if discharged, was discharged under honorable conditions.

2. An injured veterans grant program is created under the control of the department for the purpose of providing grants to eligible injured veterans. Providing grants to eligible injured veterans pursuant to this section is deemed to serve a vital and valid public purpose of the state by assisting injured veterans and their families.

3. The department may receive and accept donations, grants, gifts, and contributions from any public or private source for the purpose of providing grants under this section. Moneys received by the department pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in an injured veterans trust fund which shall be created in the state treasury under the control of the department. Moneys credited to the trust fund are appropriated to the department for the purpose of providing injured veterans grants under this section and shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered, except as provided in this section. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the trust fund shall be credited to the trust fund.

4. Moneys appropriated to or received by the department for providing injured veterans grants under this section may be expended for grants of up to ten thousand dollars to a veteran who is seriously injured or very seriously injured, as defined in the most recently published United States department of defense joint publication 1-02, to provide financial assistance to the veteran so that family members of the veteran may be with the veteran during the veteran’s recovery from an injury received in the line of duty in a combat zone or in a zone where the veteran was receiving hazardous duty pay after September 11, 2001.

5. The department shall adopt rules governing the distribution of grants under this section in accordance with the following:

a. Grants shall be paid in increments of two thousand five hundred dollars, up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars, upon proof that the veteran has been evacuated from the operational theater in which the veteran was injured to a military hospital or that the veteran has suffered an injury requiring at least thirty consecutive days of hospitalization at a military hospital, for an injury received in the line of duty and shall continue to be paid, at thirty-day intervals, up to the maximum amount, so long as the veteran is hospitalized or receiving medical care or rehabilitation services authorized by the military.

b. Proof of continued medical care or rehabilitation services may include any reasonably reliable documentation showing that the veteran is receiving continued medical or rehabilitative care as a result of qualifying injuries. Proof that the injury occurred in the line of duty shall be made based upon the circumstances of the injury known at the time of evacuation from the combat zone or zone in which the veteran was receiving hazardous duty pay.

c. Grants for veterans injured after September 11, 2001, but prior to May 8, 2006, shall be payable, upon a showing that the veteran would have been eligible for payment had the injury occurred on or after May 8, 2006.

d. (1) A seriously injured veteran meeting all other requirements of this section may receive additional grants for subsequent, unrelated injuries that meet the requirements of

this section. Any subsequent, unrelated injury shall be treated as if it were an initial injury for the purposes of determining eligibility or allotment.

(2) Grants for veterans suffering subsequent, unrelated injuries after September 11, 2001, but prior to March 30, 2011, shall be payable, upon a showing that the veteran would have been eligible for payment had the subsequent, unrelated injury occurred on or after March 30, 2011.

6. The department may appear before the executive council and request funds to meet the funding needs of the grant program under this section if funds are made available to the executive council for this purpose.

2006 Acts, ch 1106, §1, 4; 2006 Acts, ch 1185, §115; 2007 Acts, ch 22, §112, 116; 2007 Acts, ch 142, §1, 2; 2010 Acts, ch 1047, §1; 2011 Acts, ch 12, §1 – 3; 2012 Acts, ch 1012, §1

Referred to in §422.7

[SP] 2011 amendments adding subsection 5, paragraph d, and subsection 6 take effect March 30, 2011, and apply retroactively to September 11, 2001, for veterans suffering a subsequent, unrelated injury after that date; 2011 Acts, ch 12, §3

35A.15 Home ownership assistance program. Repealed by 2008 Acts, ch 1120, § 2. See § 16.54.

35A.16 County commissions of veteran affairs fund — appropriation.

1. *a.* A county commissions of veteran affairs fund is created within the state treasury under the control of the department. The fund shall consist of appropriations made to the fund and any other moneys available to and obtained or accepted by the department from the federal government or private sources for deposit in the fund.

b. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the sum of one million dollars to be credited to the county commissions of veteran affairs fund.

2. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest or earnings on moneys in the county commissions of veteran affairs fund shall be credited to the county commissions of veteran affairs fund. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys remaining in the county commissions of veteran affairs fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state.

3. *a.* If sufficient moneys are available, the department shall annually allocate ten thousand dollars to each county commission of veteran affairs, or to each county sharing the services of an executive director or administrator pursuant to chapter 28E, to be used to provide services to veterans pursuant to section 35B.6. Each county receiving an allocation shall annually report on expenditure of the allocation in a form agreed to by the department and county representatives.

b. If a county fails to be in compliance with the requirements of section 35B.6 on June 30 of each fiscal year, all moneys received by the county pursuant to this subsection during that fiscal year shall be reimbursed to the county commissions of veteran affairs fund.

c. Moneys distributed to a county under this subsection shall be used to supplement and not supplant any existing funding provided by the county or received by the county from any other source. The department shall adopt a maintenance of effort requirement for moneys distributed under this subsection.

4. A county commission of veteran affairs training program account shall be established within the county commissions of veteran affairs fund. Any moneys remaining in the fund after the allocations under subsection 3 shall be credited to the account and used by the department to fund the county commission of veteran affairs training program under section 35A.17 and training for department personnel.

2008 Acts, ch 1130, §2, 10; 2009 Acts, ch 4, §1; 2010 Acts, ch 1031, §409; 2012 Acts, ch 1059, §6

Referred to in §35A.17

35A.17 County commission of veteran affairs training program.

1. A county commission of veteran affairs training program is created under the control of the department for the purpose of providing training, certification, and accreditation opportunities for county commissions of veteran affairs executive directors, administrators, and employees.

2. The department may receive and accept donations, grants, gifts, and contributions from any public or private source for the purpose of providing training opportunities under this section. All funds received by the department shall be deposited in the county commission of veteran affairs training program account established in section 35A.16, subsection 4.

3. a. The department shall use funds deposited in the county commission of veteran affairs training program account to organize statewide or regional training conferences and provide training, certification, and accreditation opportunities for county commissions of veteran affairs executive directors, administrators, and employees, consistent with the requirements of section 35A.5, subsection 9.

b. During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, the department shall use account funds to arrange for an accreditation course by the national association of county veteran service officers to take place within the state.

c. The department may use account funds to hire an agency, organization, or other entity to provide training or educational programming, reimburse county executive directors, administrators, and employees for transportation costs related to a conference or program, or both.

4. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 17A, deemed necessary for the administration of the county commission of veteran affairs training program.

2008 Acts, ch 1130, §3, 10

Referred to in §35A.16

35A.18 Presentation of flags.

1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “*member of the armed forces of the United States*” means a person who was a resident of this state and a member of the national guard, reserve, or regular component of the armed forces of the United States at the time of the person’s death.

2. If the governor issues a proclamation for the national and state flags to be flown at half-staff in recognition of the death of a member of the armed forces of the United States while serving on active duty, the office of the governor shall present the flags that were flown over the state capitol to the member’s surviving spouse. If the member does not have a surviving spouse, the two flags shall be presented to another individual who is part of the member’s immediate family. The cost of the flags is the responsibility of the department.

2009 Acts, ch 45, §1

35A.19 through 35A.22 Repealed by 2013 Acts, ch 91, § 4. See § 35A.13(7).

Moneys remaining in war orphans educational assistance fund on July 1, 2013, transferred to war orphans educational assistance account of the veterans trust fund; transition provisions for administration of war orphans educational assistance by commission of veterans affairs; 2013 Acts, ch 91, §5, 6

With respect to proposed amendments to former §35A.20 by 2013 Acts, ch 90, §21, 22, see Code editor’s note on simple harmonization