



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Chester Culver
Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit:

House File 304, A bill for an act relating to the payment by a county of the agricultural land tax credit and reimbursement to the county of its payment and providing an effective date.

House File 492, A bill for an act relating to soil conservation by providing for the acquisition of land by soil and water conservation districts, and eliminating certain reporting requirements.

House File 576, A bill for an act relating to the enterprise zone program and including effective date provisions.

House File 665, A bill for an act relating to property taxation of certain lands leased to others by the department of corrections or department of human services and providing for the Act's applicability.



House File 676, an Act establishing a veterans trust fund under the control of the Commission of Veterans Affairs and providing a contingent appropriation.

The above House Files are hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

TJV:jmc

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House



HOUSE FILE 676

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A VETERANS TRUST FUND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND PROVIDING A CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 35A.13 VETERANS TRUST FUND.

1. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means the same as defined in section 35.1 or a resident of this state who served in the armed forces of the United States, completed

a minimum aggregate of ninety days of active federal service, and was discharged under honorable conditions.

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

3. 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. 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.

4. 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.

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

6. Moneys appropriated to the commission under this section shall not be used to supplant funding previously 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. College tuition aid.

b. Job training aid.

c. Expenses relating to an individual receiving care by a nursing facility that are not payable by any other sources.

d. Benefits provided to children of disabled or deceased veterans.

e. Unemployment aid needed during a veteran's unemployment due to prolonged illness or disability resulting from military service. A diagnosed case of mental distress due to military

service-related activities shall be included as a disability under this paragraph.

f. Other purposes identified by the commission.



CHRISTOPHER C. RANTS

Speaker of the House



MARY E. KRAMER

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 676, Eightieth General Assembly.



MARGARET THOMSON

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved May 15, 2003



THOMAS J. VILSACK

Governor