



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

April 5, 2012

The Honorable Matt Schultz
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit:

Senate File 2038, an Act relating to the duties and requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Commission of Veterans Affairs.

The above Senate File is hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House



Senate File 2038

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

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

Section 1. Section 35A.2, Code 2011, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 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.

Sec. 2. Section 35A.5, subsection 4, Code Supplement 2011, is amended to read as follows:

4. Permanently maintain the records including certified records of bonus applications for awards paid ~~from the war orphans educational fund under chapter 35.~~

Sec. 3. Section 35A.5, subsection 5, Code Supplement 2011, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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.

Sec. 4. Section 35A.5, subsection 6, Code Supplement 2011, is amended to read as follows:

6. Conduct ~~two~~ one service ~~schools~~ school each year for ~~the Iowa association of county commissioners and executive directors~~ one service school for executive directors and administrators. The service school for executive directors and administrators shall provide at least sixteen continuing education units.

Sec. 5. Section 35A.8, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2011, are amended by striking the subsections.

Sec. 6. Section 35A.16, subsection 4, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

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.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 35A.19 War orphans educational assistance fund.

A war orphans educational assistance fund is created as a separate fund in the state treasury under the control of the department of veterans affairs. Any money appropriated for the purpose of assisting in the education of orphaned children of veterans, as defined in section 35.1, or the education of a child as provided in section 35A.20, subsection 2, shall be deposited in the war orphans educational assistance fund. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any unexpended or unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert, but shall remain available for expenditure for purposes of this section in succeeding fiscal years.