

JAN 26 1998
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 2094
BY BRUNKHORST

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a medical expense fund for Persian Gulf
2 Conflict veterans and their families, and making an
3 appropriation.

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

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HF 2094

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.16 PERSIAN GULF CONFLICT
2 MEDICAL EXPENSE FUND -- APPROPRIATION.

3 1. The department shall establish a fund to assist
4 veterans of the Persian Gulf Conflict, and their family
5 members, in defraying medical expenses relating to being
6 tested or treated for one or more illnesses commonly
7 associated with or referred to as gulf war syndrome. To be
8 eligible for assistance, an individual shall either be a
9 veteran of the Persian Gulf Conflict, as described in section
10 427.3, subsection 2, or a family member of such a veteran.
11 Individuals applying to the department for Persian Gulf
12 Conflict medical expense assistance shall document that the
13 individual is a Persian Gulf Conflict veteran or family
14 member, and that the individual has incurred medical expenses
15 relating to undergoing testing or treatment for illnesses
16 commonly associated with or referred to as gulf war syndrome.
17 The department shall determine criteria for the evaluation of
18 applications and the granting of assistance, subject to a
19 maximum award of five thousand dollars per applicant per year.

20 2. The department, with the assistance of the Iowa
21 national guard and the state and county commissions of
22 veterans affairs, shall develop and implement a notification
23 process encouraging Persian Gulf Conflict veterans and their
24 family members to be tested for illnesses related to service
25 in the Persian Gulf Conflict, and informing them of the
26 existence of the medical expense fund.

27 3. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
28 the state to the department five hundred thousand dollars, or
29 so much thereof as is necessary, to carry out the purposes of
30 this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33, the moneys
31 appropriated in this section that remain unencumbered and
32 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
33 to the general fund but shall remain available for expenditure
34 for the purposes designated during the succeeding fiscal year.

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EXPLANATION

1 This bill appropriates \$500,000 annually to the Iowa
2 department of public health for the creation of a medical
3 expense fund to assist veterans of the Persian Gulf Conflict
4 and their family members in defraying medical expenses
5 relating to being tested or treated for one or more illnesses
6 commonly associated with or referred to as gulf war syndrome.
7 Applicants for funds must document that they are a veteran of
8 the Persian Gulf Conflict, as described in Code section 427.3,
9 subsection 2, relating to property tax exemption
10 qualification, or a family member of such a veteran, and that
11 they have incurred medical expenses relating to testing or
12 treatment for illnesses associated with or referred to as gulf
13 war syndrome. Award criteria and funding amounts shall be
14 determined by the department, subject to a maximum award of
15 \$5,000 per applicant per year. The bill provides that the
16 department, with the assistance of the Iowa national guard and
17 the state and county commissions of veterans affairs, shall
18 develop and implement a notification process encouraging
19 Persian Gulf Conflict veterans and their family members to be
20 tested for illnesses related to service in the Persian Gulf
21 Conflict, and informing the veterans and their family members
22 of the existence of the medical expense fund. The bill
23 additionally provides that the appropriated funds remaining
24 unencumbered and unobligated at the close of the fiscal year
25 shall not revert to the state general fund but shall remain
26 available for expenditure for the purposes designated during
27 the succeeding fiscal year.

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