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SENATE FILE 2179

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SENG, and McCOY

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the creation of a home modification grant  
2 program for veterans, and making an appropriation.

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

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SF 2179

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 35A.14 HOME MODIFICATION GRANT  
2 PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means the  
4 same as defined in section 35.1 or a resident of this state  
5 who served in the armed forces of the United States, completed  
6 a minimum aggregate of ninety days of active federal service,  
7 and was discharged under honorable conditions.

8 2. A veterans home modification grant program is created  
9 under the control of the department. The veterans home  
10 modification grant program shall provide grants to veterans  
11 who have a service-connected, permanent disability, rating  
12 less than fifty percent as verified by the United States  
13 department of veterans affairs or a branch of the United  
14 States armed forces. Grants shall be awarded for home  
15 modifications that are designed to meet the needs of the  
16 veteran with the disability who will be residing in the home.

17 3. It is the intent of the general assembly that the  
18 program be equitably accessible to eligible veterans  
19 throughout the state.

20 4. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
21 17A to administer the program.

22 a. The rules shall establish criteria for the awarding of  
23 grants, including the maximum amount available per grant. In  
24 determining the maximum amount available per grant, the  
25 commission shall consider the number of potential recipients  
26 statewide.

27 b. The rules shall provide that eligible modifications may  
28 include but are not limited to any of the following:

- 29 (1) Bathroom modifications.
- 30 (2) Installation of grab bars and handrails.
- 31 (3) Kitchen modifications.
- 32 (4) Lifting devices.
- 33 (5) Main-level bathroom or bedroom additions.
- 34 (6) Ramp additions or repair.
- 35 (7) Sidewalk additions or repair.

1 (8) The widening of doorways or hallways.

2 c. The rules shall specify the types of eligible  
3 residences, which shall include but are not limited to single-  
4 family residences owned by the veteran.

5 d. The rules shall provide for a waiting list system to be  
6 instituted if the total amount of the grants awarded in a  
7 fiscal year exceeds available funding for that fiscal year.

8 Sec. 2. HOME MODIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS --  
9 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated to the department of  
10 veterans affairs from the general fund of the state for the  
11 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007,  
12 the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to  
13 provide funding for grants awarded under the home modification  
14 grant program for veterans created in section 35A.14:

15 ..... \$ 50,000

16 EXPLANATION

17 This bill establishes a home modification grant program for  
18 veterans under the control of the department of veterans  
19 affairs. The program would provide grants to veterans who  
20 have a service-connected, permanent disability, rating less  
21 than 50 percent for home modifications that are designed to  
22 meet the needs of the veteran with the disability who will be  
23 residing in the home. The bill directs the commission of  
24 veterans affairs to adopt rules to administer the program and  
25 provides a listing of the types of modifications that are to  
26 be included under the program.

27 The bill appropriates \$50,000 to the department of veterans  
28 affairs from the general fund of the state for state fiscal  
29 year 2006-2007 for the home modification grant program.

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