

House File 55 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY BAILEY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning veterans affairs by establishing a county
2 commissions of veteran affairs grant program, requiring the
3 development of an internet website to assist veterans, and
4 making an appropriation.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
6 TLSB 1201YH 83
7 ec/nh/8

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 35B.14A COUNTY COMMISSIONS OF
1 2 VETERAN AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM == APPROPRIATION.
1 3 1. A county commissions of veteran affairs grant program
1 4 is created under the control of the department of veterans
1 5 affairs to provide assistance to county commissions in serving
1 6 the needs of veterans.
1 7 2. The department shall establish a grant application
1 8 process and shall require each county applying for a grant to
1 9 submit a plan for utilizing the grant to improve outreach
1 10 services for veterans. The maximum grant to be awarded to a
1 11 county shall be five thousand dollars and may only be awarded
1 12 to a county once every three years. Grants awarded to a
1 13 county shall be used to acquire technology to enhance outreach
1 14 services for veterans.
1 15 3. Beginning with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009,
1 16 there is appropriated annually from the general fund of the
1 17 state to the department of veterans affairs one hundred fifty
1 18 thousand dollars for distribution to counties as grants
1 19 pursuant to the requirements of this section. Notwithstanding
1 20 section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this section that remain
1 21 unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year
1 22 shall not revert to the fund from which appropriated but shall
1 23 be credited to the veterans trust fund created in section
1 24 35A.13.

1 25 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS == WEBSITE
1 26 DEVELOPMENT == VETERAN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE. The department
1 27 of veterans affairs shall establish and develop an internet
1 28 website by January 1, 2010, to provide confidential assistance
1 29 for Iowa veterans as they transition back to civilian life
1 30 after serving in the military. The goal of the services
1 31 provided through the website is to help service members and
1 32 their families deal with the emotional and psychological
1 33 challenges they may be facing upon return from service.

EXPLANATION

1 35 This bill concerns efforts to provide outreach services to
2 1 veterans.

2 2 The bill creates the county commissions of veteran affairs
2 3 grant program in the department of veterans affairs. The bill
2 4 appropriates \$150,000 each fiscal year to the department for
2 5 the awarding of grants to counties for use in acquiring
2 6 technology to enhance outreach services to veterans. The bill
2 7 provides that the maximum grant to a county in a fiscal year
2 8 is \$5,000 and a county may receive a grant only once every
2 9 three years. Moneys appropriated but not expended for the
2 10 grant program shall be credited to the veterans trust fund.

2 11 The bill also requires the department of veterans affairs
2 12 to establish an internet website by January 1, 2010, to
2 13 provide confidential assistance for Iowa veterans as they
2 14 transition back to civilian life after serving in the
2 15 military.

2 16 LSB 1201YH 83
2 17 ec/nh/8.1