

House File 2346 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2346
BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 538)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the department of veterans affairs relating
2 to membership on the commission of veterans affairs and
3 expenditures from the veterans trust fund.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 35A.2, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2018,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 1. A commission of veterans affairs is created consisting
4 of ~~nine~~ eleven persons who shall be appointed by the governor,
5 subject to confirmation by the senate. Members shall be
6 appointed to staggered terms of four years beginning and
7 ending as provided in [section 69.19](#). The governor shall fill
8 a vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. In addition
9 to the members appointed by the governor, the director of the
10 department and the commandant of the Iowa veterans home shall
11 serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the commission.

12 2. ~~Eight~~ Ten commissioners shall be honorably discharged
13 members of the armed forces of the United States. The American
14 legion of Iowa, disabled American veterans department of Iowa,
15 veterans of foreign wars department of Iowa, American veterans
16 of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, the Vietnam veterans
17 of America, and the military order of the purple heart,
18 the paralyzed veterans of America, and the Iowa association
19 of county commissioners and veteran service officers,
20 through their department commanders, shall submit two names
21 respectively from their organizations to the governor. The
22 adjutant general and the Iowa affiliate of the reserve officers
23 association shall submit names to the governor of persons to
24 represent the Iowa national guard and the association. The
25 governor shall appoint from the group of names submitted by
26 the adjutant general and reserve officers association two
27 representatives and from each of the other organizations
28 one representative to serve as a member of the commission,
29 unless the appointments would conflict with the bipartisan and
30 gender balance provisions of [sections 69.16](#) and [69.16A](#). In
31 addition, the governor shall appoint one member of the public,
32 knowledgeable in the general field of veterans affairs, to
33 serve on the commission.

34 Sec. 2. Section 35A.13, subsection 3, Code 2018, is amended
35 to read as follows:

1 3. Moneys credited to the trust fund shall not be
2 transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise
3 encumbered, except as provided in [this section](#). Moneys in the
4 trust fund may be used for cash flow purposes during a fiscal
5 year provided that any moneys so allocated are returned to the
6 trust fund by the end of that fiscal year. Moneys in the trust
7 fund may also be used for cemetery grant development purposes
8 provided that any moneys so allocated, except for moneys used
9 for department of administrative services expenditures related
10 to the grant, are returned to the trust fund upon receipt of
11 federal funds received for such purposes.

12 Sec. 3. Section 35A.13, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code
13 2018, is amended to read as follows:

14 a. The minimum balance of the trust fund required prior
15 to expenditure of moneys from the trust fund is five million
16 dollars. Once the minimum balance is reached, the interest and
17 earnings on the fund and the first ~~three~~ five hundred thousand
18 dollars transferred each fiscal year pursuant to [section 99G.39](#)
19 from the lottery fund to the trust fund are appropriated to the
20 commission to be used to achieve the purposes of [subsection 6](#)
21 of [this section](#). Moneys appropriated to the commission that
22 remain unobligated or unexpended at the end of each fiscal year
23 shall revert to the trust fund. It is the intent of the general
24 assembly that the balance in the trust fund reach fifty million
25 dollars.

26 Sec. 4. Section 35A.13, subsection 6, paragraph 1, Code
27 2018, is amended by striking the paragraph.

28 Sec. 5. Section 35A.13, subsection 6, Code 2018, is amended
29 by adding the following new paragraphs:

30 NEW PARAGRAPH. o. Rental housing assistance for veterans
31 who meet the definition of homeless, as set out in 42 U.S.C.
32 §11302, for payment of rental application fees needed for
33 obtaining rental housing.

34 NEW PARAGRAPH. p. Monetary assistance on a one-time basis
35 per recipient to be used to prevent homelessness in an amount

1 not to exceed one thousand dollars per recipient.

2 EXPLANATION

3 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
4 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill concerns the department of veterans affairs.

6 Code section 35A.2, concerning the commission of veterans
7 affairs, is amended to increase the membership on the
8 commission from 9 to 11 persons. The bill provides that
9 additional persons include a representative selected from names
10 submitted by the paralyzed veterans of America and by the
11 Iowa association of county commissioners and veteran service
12 officers.

13 Code section 35A.13, concerning the veterans trust fund, is
14 amended.

15 Code section 35A.13(3) is amended to provide that moneys
16 used by the department of administrative services for
17 expenditures related to cemetery grant development purposes
18 are not required to be returned to the veterans trust fund
19 upon receipt of federal funds received for cemetery grant
20 development purposes.

21 Code section 35A.13(4) is amended to provide that once the
22 minimum balance in the trust fund of \$5 million is reached,
23 interest and earnings on the fund and the first \$500,000,
24 instead of the first \$300,000, transferred to the fund from
25 the Iowa lottery authority from lottery revenues may be used
26 each fiscal year by the commission of veterans affairs for the
27 purposes provided within the Code section.

28 Code section 35A.13(6), concerning permissible uses for
29 moneys in the veterans trust fund, is amended. The bill
30 strikes the provision authorizing moneys in the trust fund to
31 be expended for matching funds to veterans organizations to
32 provide for accredited veteran service officers. The bill
33 provides that moneys in the trust fund may be expended, upon a
34 majority vote of the state commission of veterans affairs, for
35 rental housing assistance for homeless veterans for the payment

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1 of rental application fees needed to secure rental housing, and
2 for a one-time monetary assistance to prevent homelessness in
3 an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per recipient.