

House File 909 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 909

BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 243)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a veterans service
2 organization grant program, and making appropriations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **35A.23 Veterans service**
2 **organization grant program.**

3 1. A veterans service organization grant program is
4 established under the administration and control of the
5 department to award grants to veterans service organizations for
6 the purpose of ensuring adequate staff are employed to assist
7 veterans with claims.

8 2. A veterans service organization grant fund is created
9 within the state treasury under the control of the department.
10 The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by
11 the general assembly and any other moneys available to and
12 obtained or accepted by the department for deposit in the fund.
13 All moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department for
14 purposes of administering the program and providing grants under
15 the program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund
16 that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal
17 year shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure
18 for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding section 12C.7,
19 subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall
20 be credited to the fund.

21 3. a. In administering the program, the department shall
22 award matching funds to veterans service organizations for the
23 purpose of employing staff to assist veterans with claims.

24 b. To receive a grant, a veterans service organization shall
25 demonstrate that moneys have been budgeted and will be expended
26 by the veterans service organization in the amount required to
27 provide matching funds for each staff position for which grant
28 moneys are sought.

29 c. For purposes of this section, "veterans service
30 organization" means an organization recognized pursuant to 38
31 C.F.R. §14.628(c).

32 4. The department shall adopt, as necessary, application
33 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other rules
34 pursuant to chapter 17A for purposes of implementing and
35 administering the program.

1 Sec. 2. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION GRANT FUND —
2 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of
3 the state to the department of veterans affairs for the fiscal
4 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the
5 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used
6 for the purposes designated:

7 For deposit in the veterans service organization grant fund
8 created in section 35A.23, as enacted by this Act:

9 \$ 250,000

10 EXPLANATION

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

13 This bill establishes a veterans service organization grant
14 program under the administration of the department of veterans
15 affairs for the purpose of providing matching funds to veterans
16 service organizations, as defined in 38 C.F.R. §14.628(c). The
17 moneys must be used for employing staff who assist veterans with
18 claims. The bill requires the department to adopt application
19 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other rules for
20 implementing and administering the program.

21 The bill creates a veterans service organization grant fund
22 under the control of the department and appropriates \$250,000 to
23 the department for deposit in the fund.