

This document has been provided by the Legal Division of the Legislative Service Bureau in a read-only electronic format that may not be altered but may be printed or forwarded electronically. Any modification of this document must be processed by the Legal Division to be valid for legislative use.

DRAFT 1

SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 250

A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010; to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations; to provide for certain powers and duties of the department of military and veterans affairs, other state agencies, and local units of government related to the appropriations; and to provide for the preparation of certain reports related to the appropriations.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1
2
3
4
5

PART 1

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Subject to the conditions set forth in this act, the amounts listed in this part are appropriated for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September



1 30, 2010, from the funds indicated in this part. The following is a
 2 summary of the appropriations in this part:

3 **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

4 APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

5	Full-time equated unclassified positions	7.0	
6	Full-time equated classified positions	985.0	
7	GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 149,211,500
8	Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
9	Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental		
10	transfers		1,686,500
11	ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 147,525,000
12	Federal revenues:		
13	Total federal revenues		77,347,300
14	Special revenue funds:		
15	Total local revenues		1,295,100
16	Total private revenues		1,471,200
17	Total other state restricted revenues		27,924,200
18	State general fund/general purpose		\$ 39,487,200
19	Sec. 102. HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES		
20	Full-time equated unclassified positions	7.0	
21	Full-time equated classified positions	125.0	
22	Headquarters and armories--85.0 FTE positions		\$ 10,988,900
23	Unclassified military personnel		665,000
24	Military appeals tribunal		900
25	Michigan emergency volunteers		5,000
26	State active duty		100,100
27	Challenge program--40.0 FTE positions		4,737,000



1	Homeland security	1,000,000
2	Military family relief fund	<u>600,000</u>
3	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 18,096,900
4	Appropriated from:	
5	IDG, challenge grant	262,100
6	IDG, community health	100,000
7	IDG, state police	900,000
8	IDG, human services	424,400
9	Federal revenues:	
10	DOD-DOA-NGB	5,747,200
11	Special revenue funds:	
12	Local-school aid fund	1,295,100
13	Rental fees	346,400
14	Mackinac Bridge authority	70,000
15	Private donations	826,800
16	Military family relief fund	600,000
17	Private-parent pay revenue	104,400
18	State general fund/general purpose	\$ 7,420,500
19	Sec. 103. MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT	
20	FACILITIES	
21	Full-time equated classified positions	181.0
22	Military training sites and support	
23	facilities--181.0 FTE positions	\$ 25,165,100
24	Military training sites and support facilities test	
25	projects	<u>100,000</u>
26	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 25,265,100
27	Appropriated from:	



1	Federal revenues:		
2	DOD-DOA-NGB		23,139,400
3	Special revenue funds:		
4	Test project fees		100,000
5	State general fund/general purpose	\$	2,025,700
6	Sec. 104. DEPARTMENTWIDE APPROPRIATIONS		
7	Departmentwide accounts	\$	1,946,500
8	Special maintenance - state		651,200
9	Special maintenance - federal		5,300,000
10	Military retirement		3,407,800
11	Counter narcotic operations		50,000
12	Starbase grant		<u>2,322,000</u>
13	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	13,677,500
14	Appropriated from:		
15	Federal revenues:		
16	DOD-DOA-NGB		9,288,100
17	Federal counternarcotic revenues		50,000
18	State general fund/general purpose	\$	4,339,400
19	Sec. 106. GRAND RAPIDS VETERANS' HOME		
20	Full-time equated classified positions	513.0	
21	Grand Rapids veterans' home--513.0 FTE positions	\$	49,717,300
22	Board of managers		<u>665,000</u>
23	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	50,382,300
24	Appropriated from:		
25	Federal revenues:		
26	DVA-VHA		15,862,600
27	HHS, Medicaid		157,300



1	HHS, Medicare		2,452,700
2	Special revenue funds:		
3	Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds ...		415,000
4	Income and assessments		15,304,700
5	Military family relief fund		250,000
6	Lease revenue		12,200
7	State general fund/general purpose	\$	15,927,800
8	Sec. 107. D.J. JACOBETTI VETERANS' HOME		
9	Full-time equated classified positions	158.0	
10	D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home--158.0 FTE positions ...	\$	15,956,100
11	Board of managers		<u>275,000</u>
12	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	16,231,100
13	Appropriated from:		
14	Federal revenues:		
15	DVA-VHA		4,604,400
16	HHS, Medicare		562,400
17	HHS, Medicaid		10,300
18	Special revenue funds:		
19	Private - veterans' home post and posthumous funds ...		125,000
20	Military family relief fund		150,000
21	Income and assessments		5,741,100
22	State general fund/general purpose		5,037,900
23	Sec. 108. VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE		
24	Full-time equated classified positions	8.0	
25	Veterans' affairs directorate administration--2.0		
26	FTE positions	\$	276,700
27	Veterans' trust fund administration--6.0 FTE		



1	positions.....		1,251,500
2	Grants for veterans benefits counseling		4,029,600
3	Veterans' trust fund grants		<u>3,746,500</u>
4	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	9,304,300
5	Appropriated from:		
6	Special revenue funds:		
7	Michigan veterans' trust fund		4,998,000
8	State general fund/general purpose	\$	4,306,300
9	Sec. 109. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
10	Information technology services and projects	\$	<u>1,254,300</u>
11	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	1,254,300
12	Appropriated from:		
13	Federal revenues:		
14	DOD-DOA-NGB		123,900
15	DVA-VHA		339,000
16	HHS, Medicare		10,000
17	Special revenue funds:		
18	Income and assessments		351,800
19	State general fund/general purpose	\$	429,600
20	Sec. 110. CAPITAL OUTLAY		
21	Special maintenance, remodeling and additions	\$	<u>15,000,000</u>
22	GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$	15,000,000
23	Appropriated from:		
24	Federal revenues:		
25	DOD-DOA-NGB		15,000,000
26	Special revenue funds:		
27	State general fund/general purpose	\$	0



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PART 2

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 201. Pursuant to section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources under part 1 for fiscal year 2009-2010 is \$67,411,400.00 and state spending from state resources to be paid to local units of government for fiscal year 2009-2010 is \$120,000.00. The itemized statement below identifies appropriations from which spending to local units of government will occur:

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
MILITARY TRAINING SITES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

Payments in lieu of taxes	\$	70,000
MICHIGAN VETERANS' TRUST FUND		
County counselor education and training expenses	\$	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL	\$	120,000

Sec. 202. The appropriations authorized under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

Sec. 203. As used in this act:

(a) "Department" means the department of military and veterans affairs.

(b) "Director" means the director of the department of military and veterans affairs.

(c) "DOD" means the United States department of defense.



1 (d) "DOD-DOA-NGB" means the DOD department of the army,
2 national guard bureau.

3 (e) "DVA" means the United States department of veterans'
4 affairs.

5 (f) "DVA-VHA" means the DVA veterans' health administration.

6 (g) "FTE" means full-time equated.

7 (h) "HHS" means the United States department of health and
8 human services.

9 (i) "IDG" means interdepartmental grant.

10 Sec. 204. The department of civil service shall bill the
11 departments and agencies at the end of the first fiscal quarter for
12 the 1% charge authorized by section 5 of article XI of the state
13 constitution of 1963. Payments shall be made for the total amount
14 of the billing by the end of the second fiscal quarter.

15 Sec. 205. (1) A hiring freeze is imposed on the state
16 classified civil service. State departments and agencies are
17 prohibited from hiring any new full-time state classified civil
18 service employees and prohibited from filling any vacant state
19 classified civil service positions. This hiring freeze does not
20 apply to internal transfers of classified employees from 1 position
21 to another within a department.

22 (2) The state budget director may grant exceptions to this
23 hiring freeze when the state budget director believes that the
24 hiring freeze will result in rendering a state department or agency
25 unable to deliver basic services, causes loss of revenue to the
26 state, would result in the inability of the state to receive
27 federal funds, or would necessitate additional expenditures that



1 exceed any savings from maintaining a vacancy. The state budget
2 director shall report quarterly to the chairpersons of the senate
3 and house of representatives standing committees on appropriations
4 the number of exceptions to the hiring freeze approved during the
5 previous quarter and the reasons to justify the exception.

6 Sec. 208. Unless otherwise specified, the department shall use
7 the Internet to fulfill the reporting requirements of this act.
8 This requirement may include transmission of reports via electronic
9 mail to the recipients identified for each reporting requirement or
10 it may include placement of reports on an Internet or Intranet
11 site.

12 Sec. 209. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for
13 the purchase of foreign goods or services, or both, if
14 competitively priced and of comparable quality American goods or
15 services, or both, are available. Preference should be given to
16 goods or services, or both, manufactured or provided by Michigan
17 businesses, if they are competitively priced and of comparable
18 quality. In addition, preference should be given to goods or
19 services, or both, that are manufactured or provided by Michigan
20 businesses owned and operated by veterans, if they are
21 competitively priced and of comparable quality.

22 Sec. 210. The director of each department receiving
23 appropriations in part 1 shall take all reasonable steps to ensure
24 businesses in deprived and depressed communities compete for and
25 perform contracts to provide services or supplies, or both. Each
26 director shall strongly encourage firms with which the department
27 contracts to subcontract with certified businesses in depressed and



1 deprived communities for services, supplies, or both.

2 Sec. 211. The departments and agencies receiving
3 appropriations in part 1 shall receive and retain copies of all
4 reports funded from appropriations in part 1. The department shall
5 follow all federal guidelines and state laws regarding short-term
6 and long-term retention of records.

7 Sec. 212. (1) Of the funds appropriated in part 1 for military
8 training sites and support facilities, there shall be established a
9 Michigan national guard education assistance program. Disbursements
10 to the educational assistance program shall not exceed \$750,000.00
11 without legislative approval. Under the program, a member of the
12 national guard who is in active service and who enrolls as a full-
13 or part-time student at a public or private state college or
14 university may be eligible to receive up to an equivalent of 50% of
15 the total cost of tuition not to exceed \$2,000.00, as education
16 assistance, in any academic year.

17 (2) As used in this section, an eligible person means a member
18 of the Michigan national guard who is in active service, as defined
19 in section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL
20 32.505. An eligible person does not include a member of the
21 Michigan national guard or air national guard who is absent without
22 leave or who is under charges as described in the Michigan code of
23 military justice of 1980, 1980 PA 523, MCL 32.1001 to 32.1148.

24 (3) The department of military and veterans affairs, office of
25 the adjutant general shall administer the education assistance
26 program and prescribe forms and procedures to effectively carry out
27 the education assistance program.



1 (4) An eligible person shall apply to the department of
2 military and veterans affairs, office of the adjutant general for
3 education assistance and shall provide evidence of attendance and
4 completion of the course of study with a grade of at least 2.0 on a
5 4.0 scale, or its equivalent. The adjutant general shall approve
6 the application for reimbursement if the applicant meets the
7 definition of an eligible person under subsection (2) and other
8 criteria as established by the adjutant general.

9 (5) The education assistance program applies to any course of
10 instruction that is included in an associate, undergraduate, or
11 postgraduate degree program offered by a college or university of
12 this state.

13 (6) The education assistance program applies to an eligible
14 person notwithstanding any other educational incentive or benefit
15 received by the eligible person under any other educational
16 assistance program provided by any other state.

17 (7) An eligible person who successfully completes the course
18 of study with a grade of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its
19 equivalent, shall be eligible for reimbursement.

20 (8) The department of military and veterans affairs may use
21 funds from the appropriated funds to administer the education
22 assistance program.

23 (9) Reimbursed members who do not complete their national
24 guard obligation shall pay the state for money received from the
25 state for tuition. Members who fail to repay the state within the
26 time limits established by the adjutant general shall be indebted
27 to the state. The department shall work in conjunction with the



1 department of treasury for inclusion in the tax intercept program
2 for amounts due the state.

3 (10) A portion of the funds for the Michigan national guard
4 education assistance program may be used by the department for the
5 purpose of promoting the program and for encouraging those persons
6 the department wishes to have enlist or reenlist in the Michigan
7 national guard.

8 Sec. 213. The department shall consult with the house and
9 senate appropriations subcommittees on military and veterans
10 affairs regarding the projected closing or consolidation of any
11 national guard armories.

12 Sec. 214. It is the intent of the legislature that, should the
13 necessary legislation be enacted and funding become available,
14 funds be appropriated for state military cemeteries in Crawford and
15 Dickinson counties.

16 Sec. 221. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for
17 information technology, departments and agencies shall pay user
18 fees to the department of information technology for technology-
19 related services and projects. These user fees shall be subject to
20 provisions of an interagency agreement between the departments and
21 agencies and the department of information technology.

22 Sec. 223. Amounts appropriated in part 1 for information
23 technology may be designated as work projects and carried forward
24 to support technology projects under the direction of the
25 department of information technology. Funds designated in this
26 manner are not available for expenditure until approved as work
27 projects under section 451a of the management and budget act, 1984



1 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a.

2 Sec. 225. (1) Due to the current budgetary problems in this
3 state, out-of-state travel for the fiscal year ending September 30,
4 2010 shall be limited to situations in which 1 or more of the
5 following conditions apply:

6 (a) The travel is required by legal mandate or court order or
7 for law enforcement purposes.

8 (b) The travel is necessary to protect the health or safety of
9 Michigan citizens or visitors or to assist other states in similar
10 circumstances.

11 (c) The travel is necessary to produce budgetary savings or to
12 increase state revenues, including protecting existing federal
13 funds or securing additional federal funds.

14 (d) The travel is necessary to comply with federal
15 requirements.

16 (e) The travel is necessary to secure specialized training for
17 staff that is not available within this state.

18 (f) The travel is financed entirely by federal or nonstate
19 funds.

20 (2) If out-of-state travel is necessary but does not meet 1 or
21 more of the conditions in subsection (1), the state budget director
22 may grant an exception to allow the travel. Any exceptions granted
23 by the state budget director shall be reported on a monthly basis
24 to the senate and house of representatives standing committees on
25 appropriations.

26 (3) Not later than January 1 of each year, each department
27 shall prepare a travel report listing all travel by classified and



1 unclassified employees outside this state in the immediately
2 preceding fiscal year that was funded in whole or in part with
3 funds appropriated in the department's budget. The report shall be
4 submitted to the chairs and members of the senate and house of
5 representatives standing committees on appropriations, the senate
6 and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The
7 report shall include the following information:

8 (a) The name of each person receiving reimbursement for travel
9 outside this state or whose travel costs were paid by this state.

10 (b) The destination of each travel occurrence.

11 (c) The dates of each travel occurrence.

12 (d) A brief statement of the reason for each travel
13 occurrence.

14 (e) The transportation and related costs of each travel
15 occurrence, including the proportion funded with state general
16 fund/general purpose revenues, the proportion funded with state
17 restricted revenues, the proportion funded with federal revenues,
18 and the proportion funded with other revenues.

19 (f) A total of all out-of-state travel funded for the
20 immediately preceding fiscal year.

21 Sec. 226. The department shall not take disciplinary action
22 against an employee for communicating with a member of the
23 legislature or his or her staff.

24 Sec. 227. Sixty days prior to the public announcement of the
25 intention to sell any department property, the department shall
26 submit notification of that intent to the appropriate senate and
27 house appropriations subcommittees and the senate and house fiscal



1 agencies.

2 Sec. 228. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by a
3 principal executive department, state agency, or authority to hire
4 a person to provide legal services that are the responsibility of
5 the attorney general. This prohibition does not apply to legal
6 services for bonding activities and for those activities that the
7 attorney general authorizes.

8 Sec. 232. (1) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1,
9 there is appropriated an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for
10 federal contingency funds. These funds are not available for
11 expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item
12 in this act under section 393(2) of the management and budget act,
13 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

14 (2) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
15 appropriated an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 for state
16 restricted contingency funds. These funds are not available for
17 expenditure until they have been transferred to another line item
18 in this act under section 393(2) of the management and budget act,
19 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1393.

20 (3) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
21 appropriated an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for local
22 contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure
23 until they have been transferred to another line item in this act
24 under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431,
25 MCL 18.1393.

26 (4) In addition to the funds appropriated in part 1, there is
27 appropriated an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for private



1 contingency funds. These funds are not available for expenditure
2 until they have been transferred to another line item in this act
3 under section 393(2) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431,
4 MCL 18.1393.

5 Sec. 233. Not later than September 30, 2010, the department
6 shall prepare and transmit a report that provides for estimates of
7 the total general fund/general purpose appropriation lapses at the
8 close of the fiscal year. This report shall summarize the projected
9 year-end general fund/general purpose appropriation lapses by major
10 departmental program or program areas. The report shall be
11 transmitted to the office of the state budget, the chairpersons of
12 the senate and house appropriations committees, and the senate and
13 house fiscal agencies.

14 Sec. 234. Any fiscal year 2009-2010 unused general
15 fund/general purpose funds identified by the department of military
16 and veterans affairs as lapsed funds shall be transferred to the
17 appropriation for special maintenance-state in part 1 and shall be
18 used for the repair and maintenance of state-owned armories.

19 Sec. 235. The department of military and veterans affairs
20 shall seek partnerships with United States armed forces reserve
21 units for the colocation of activities, including sharing in the
22 acquisition and costs for facilities.

23 HEADQUARTERS AND ARMORIES

24 Sec. 301. The department may charge reasonable rental and
25 equipment usage fees for renting an armory or using the distance
26 learning network. The fee shall include the cost of overtime



1 compensation, insurance coverage, and any maintenance required.

2 Sec. 302. (1) The funds appropriated in this act for private
3 donations to the challenge program shall be considered state
4 restricted revenue, and unexpended funds remaining at the close of
5 the fiscal year shall not lapse to the general fund but shall be
6 carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year.

7 (2) The department may charge a parent or guardian of a
8 participant in the challenge program a fee for participating in the
9 program if the participant is a member of a family with an income
10 that exceeds 200% of the federal poverty guidelines as published by
11 the United States department of health and human services. The
12 amount charged the parent or guardian shall not exceed the per-
13 student state share cost of administering the program. The parent
14 or guardian shall be notified of any charge to be assessed under
15 this subsection prior to enrollment of the child in the program.

16 (3) The department shall take steps to recruit candidates to
17 the challenge program from economically disadvantaged areas,
18 including those with low-income and high-unemployment backgrounds.

19 Sec. 304. The department will partner with the department of
20 human services to identify youth who may be eligible for the
21 challenge program from those youth served by department of human
22 services programs. These eligible youth shall be given priority for
23 enrollment in the program.

24 **VETERANS' HOMES**

25 Sec. 601. Appropriations in this act for the Grand Rapids
26 veterans' home and the D.J. Jacobetti veterans' home shall not be



1 used for any purpose other than for veterans and veterans'
2 families.

3 Sec. 602. The Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J.
4 Jacobetti veterans' home, together with the department and the
5 department of management and budget, shall produce and deliver to
6 the senate and house of representatives appropriations
7 subcommittees on state police and military affairs an annual
8 written report. The report shall include an accounting of member
9 populations and bed space available; a description and accounting
10 of services and activities provided to members; financial
11 information; current state nursing home licensure status; the steps
12 required for Medicaid certification, including a listing of any
13 personnel, equipment, supplies, or budgetary increases required;
14 and whether or not steps are being taken toward Medicaid
15 certification. The annual report shall be submitted to the senate
16 and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on
17 military affairs no later than February 1, 2010.

18 Sec. 603. The money appropriated in this act for the boards of
19 managers may be expended for facility improvements, the purchase
20 and repair of equipment and furnishings, member services, and other
21 purposes that benefit the Grand Rapids veterans' home and the D.J.
22 Jacobetti veterans' home.

23 **VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE**

24 Sec. 703. By April 1, 2010, the department shall submit to the
25 senate and house of representatives appropriations subcommittees on
26 military affairs and the state budget office a detailed annual



1 report of the Michigan veterans' trust fund for fiscal year 2008-
2 2009. The report shall include information on grants provided from
3 the emergency grant program, including details concerning the
4 methodology of allocations, the selection of emergency grant
5 program authorized agents, and a detailed breakdown of trust fund
6 expenditures for that year. The report shall also provide an update
7 on the department's efforts to reduce program administrative costs
8 and restore the Michigan veterans' trust fund corpus to its
9 original amount of \$50,000,000.00.

10 Sec. 704. The Michigan veterans affairs directorate
11 administration and the Michigan veterans' trust fund administration
12 shall take steps to assist the county veterans counselors of the
13 state to obtain training necessary for the execution of their
14 duties.

15 Sec. 705. It is the intent of the legislature that the
16 department create incentives for all counties in the state to fund
17 at least 1 full-time county veteran's counselor for the purpose of
18 assisting veterans with obtaining federal veterans benefits that
19 they may be eligible to receive. The incentives could include, but
20 not be limited to, matching funds or sharing IT resources from the
21 department for counties to use in maximizing benefits received by
22 Michigan veterans.

23 Sec. 707. (1) Of the funds appropriated in part 1 for grants
24 for veterans benefits counseling, the department shall distribute
25 \$2,014,750.00 of those funds for the period of October 1, 2009
26 through March 31, 2010, to the following organizations in the
27 amounts listed: American legion, \$456,300.00; disabled American



1 veterans, \$377,200.00; marine corps league, \$173,200.00; American
2 veterans of World War II and Korea, \$239,350.00; veterans of
3 foreign wars, \$456,300.00; Michigan paralyzed veterans of America,
4 \$85,350.00; purple heart, \$81,300.00; Polish legion of American
5 veterans, \$21,200.00; Jewish veterans of America, \$21,200.00; state
6 of Michigan council-Vietnam veterans of America, \$82,150.00;
7 Catholic war veterans, \$21,200.00. The grantees shall comply with
8 guidelines to be established by the department on the accounting of
9 any expenditures and require each grantee to assist with the
10 orderly transition to a new state veterans benefits counseling
11 program to begin on April 1, 2010.

12 (2) Of the funds appropriated in part 1 for grants for
13 veterans benefits counseling, the department shall use
14 \$2,014,850.00 of those funds to establish a new program based
15 within the veteran affairs directorate which shall provide benefits
16 counseling to veterans in the state for the purpose of assisting
17 veterans to obtain all federal health and financial benefits due
18 them. The department shall establish individual contractual
19 positions, the number of which shall be determined by the
20 department, which shall serve as benefits counselors for veterans
21 in the state, beginning service no later than April 1, 2010. The
22 positions shall be assigned to geographical sections of the state
23 in accordance with the needs of a particular sector of the state.
24 Each counselor hired shall be required to be eligible to file
25 claims with the United States department of veterans' affairs for
26 service-connected disability or pension benefits on behalf of a
27 veteran, regardless of what organization, including congressionally



1 chartered veterans service organizations the veteran chooses as the
2 vehicle through which a claim is filed.

3 (3) The veterans affairs directorate office shall take the
4 necessary steps to become eligible to file claims with the United
5 States department of veterans' affairs for service-connected
6 disability or pension benefits on behalf of a veteran, regardless
7 of what organization, including congressionally chartered veterans
8 service organizations the veteran chooses as the vehicle through
9 which a claim is filed.

10 (4) The veterans affairs directorate shall work to develop a
11 case management system for clients served by counselors hired
12 through the office which provides simple and secure access by
13 clients online or by telephone to check on the status of their
14 claim.

15 (5) The veterans affairs directorate is responsible for
16 administrative costs of the program, including payroll, any
17 reimbursed expenses of the contractual employees, and the
18 evaluation of the contractual employees.

19 (6) The veterans affairs directorate is responsible for the
20 coordination of all certification and training of state contracted
21 counselors, all of which shall take place in this state.

22 (7) The veterans affairs directorate, along with the
23 department as a whole, shall take steps to promote via information
24 campaigns and other methods of outreach, the existence of their
25 counseling program on a statewide basis and to advertise what shall
26 be a simple-as-possible process of accessing those services by
27 prospective clients.



1 (8) The veterans affairs directorate shall design and operate
2 the counseling program to coordinate with other organizations which
3 assist veterans, including county counselors and other groups, to
4 ensure referrals between groups occur when warranted and to provide
5 the veterans of the state with the most cost-effective and
6 comprehensive counseling services possible.

7 (9) The veterans affairs directorate shall deliver progress
8 reports on the activities of the counseling program to the senate
9 and house appropriations subcommittees on state police and military
10 affairs, with the first report due no later than April 1, 2010 and
11 the second report due no later than October 1, 2010.

12 CAPITAL OUTLAY

13 Sec. 801. The appropriations in part 1 for the department of
14 military and veterans affairs design and construction projects are
15 contingent upon the availability of federal and state restricted
16 funds for financing.

17 Sec. 802. (1) The director shall allocate lump-sum
18 appropriations made in this bill consistent with statutory
19 provisions and the purposes for which funds were appropriated.
20 Lump-sum allocations shall address priority program or facility
21 needs and may include, but are not limited to, design,
22 construction, remodeling and addition, special maintenance, major
23 special maintenance, energy conservation, and demolition.

24 (2) The state budget director may authorize that funds
25 appropriated for lump-sum appropriations shall be available for no
26 more than 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the



1 original appropriation was made. Any remaining balance from
2 allocations made in this section shall lapse to the fund from which
3 it was appropriated pursuant to the lapsing of funds as provided in
4 the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

5 Sec. 803. The appropriations in part 1 for capital outlay
6 shall be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year consistent
7 with section 248 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL
8 18.1248.

