

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 6403**

A bill to amend 1953 PA 192, entitled

"An act to create a county department of veterans' affairs in certain counties, and to prescribe its powers and duties; to create the county veteran service fund and to provide for contributions to and expenditures from that fund; and to transfer the powers and duties of the soldiers' relief commission in those counties,"

by amending section 3a (MCL 35.623a), as added by 2018 PA 210.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 3a. (1) The county veteran service fund is created within
2 the state treasury.

3 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from
4 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall
5 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit
6 to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

7 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall

1 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

2 (4) The Michigan veterans affairs agency shall be the
3 administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

4 (5) The Michigan veterans affairs agency shall create and
5 operate a grant program that provides grants to counties for county
6 veteran service operations. The Michigan veterans affairs agency
7 shall make grants from the fund, upon appropriation, to each county
8 ~~department of veterans' affairs~~ that meets the conditions listed in
9 subsection (7) for the sole use of the county's veteran service
10 operations. The total disbursement for each grant shall be
11 determined by combining the following amounts:

12 (a) A base amount of ~~\$25,000.00~~ **\$50,000.00**.

13 (b) A per capita amount according to the number of veterans
14 residing in each county. The amount in this subdivision shall be
15 determined by dividing the amount remaining in the fund after
16 accounting for all disbursements under subdivision (a) by the total
17 number of veterans residing in this state and multiplying the
18 resulting dollar amount by the number of veterans residing in the
19 county receiving the grant. Population figures for veterans
20 residing in this state and in each county of this state shall be
21 obtained from the most recent Geographic Distribution of VA
22 Expenditures (GDX) Report published by the United States Department
23 of Veterans Affairs.

24 (6) **BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO THE DISBURSEMENT OF A GRANT**
25 **UNDER SUBSECTION (5) :**

26 **(A) THE BASE AMOUNT DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (5) (A) SHALL BE**
27 **PROVIDED IN A LUMP SUM DISTRIBUTION NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 OF**

1 EACH YEAR. THE INITIAL BASE AMOUNT SHALL BE PROVIDED NOT LATER THAN
2 JANUARY 31, 2019.

3 (B) If the amount remaining in the fund after accounting for
4 all disbursements under subsection (5) (a) is less than the amount
5 obtained by multiplying \$1,000.00 by the number of counties
6 receiving grants, the Michigan veterans affairs agency shall not
7 perform a calculation under subsection (5) (b) and shall not
8 disburse the portion of grant funds described under that
9 subsection.

10 (7) To be eligible for receiving a grant under subsection (5),
11 within 1 year of ~~the effective date of the amendatory act that~~
12 ~~added this section,~~ **SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**, and annually after that
13 date, a county ~~department of veterans' affairs~~ must satisfy all of
14 the following as certified in a form and manner prescribed by the
15 Michigan veterans affairs agency:

16 (a) Maintain a minimum level of county funding for veteran
17 service operations equal to the level of county funding for veteran
18 service operations for the fiscal year preceding ~~the effective date~~
19 ~~of the amendatory act that added this section.~~ **SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**.

20 (b) Establish remote access to the United States Department of
21 Veterans Affairs computing systems and require county veteran
22 service officers to obtain a PIV card.

23 (c) Submit quarterly reports to the Michigan veterans affairs
24 agency in accordance with the reporting requirements determined by
25 that agency.

26 (d) Provide no less than 20 hours per week toward veteran
27 service operations.

1 (e) Submit financial reports to the Michigan veterans affairs
2 agency on a regular basis, as determined by that agency,
3 demonstrating that the county ~~department of veterans' affairs~~
4 expended the grant funds received under subsection (5) directly and
5 solely on veteran service operations during the period of the
6 report. If the Michigan veterans affairs agency determines, by
7 audit or otherwise, that a county ~~department of veterans' affairs~~
8 expended the grant funds received under subsection (5) for purposes
9 other than veteran service operations, the Michigan veterans
10 affairs agency shall reduce the grant disbursement provided to the
11 county ~~department of veterans' affairs~~ in the succeeding fiscal
12 year by an amount equal to the total of all amounts improperly
13 expended.

14 (8) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Accredited veteran service officer" means an individual
16 who has met the qualifications for accreditation under 38 USC 5904
17 and 38 CFR 14.629.

18 (b) "County veteran service fund" or "fund" means the fund
19 created in subsection (1).

20 (c) "PIV card" means a personal identity verification card
21 issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 (d) "Veteran service operations" means assistance and
23 programming **OF ANY KIND** to meet the needs of veterans in this
24 state. Veteran service operations include, but are not limited to,
25 **PROVIDING ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMMING, AND SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF**
26 **ASSISTING VETERANS IN THIS STATE AND** providing advice, advocacy,
27 and assistance to veterans, servicemembers, dependents, or

1 survivors by an accredited veteran service officer to obtain United
2 States Department of Veterans Affairs health, financial, or
3 memorial benefits for which they are eligible.