

**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.

1 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
2 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

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

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

13 (a) A base amount of \$25,000.00.

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

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

27 **(A) THE BASE AMOUNT DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (5) (A) SHALL BE**

1 PROVIDED IN A LUMP SUM DISTRIBUTION NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 OF
2 EACH YEAR. THE INITIAL BASE AMOUNT SHALL BE PROVIDED NOT LATER THAN
3 JANUARY 31, 2019.

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

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

17 (a) Maintain a minimum level of county funding for veteran
18 service operations equal to the level of county funding for veteran
19 service operations for the fiscal year preceding the effective date
20 of the amendatory act that added this section.

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

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

27 (d) Provide no less than 20 hours per week toward veteran

1 service operations.

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

15 (8) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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