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I. Department of Veterans Affairs -- Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

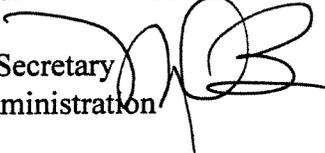
The department requests a one-time transfer in 1996-97 of \$449,200 SEG from the appropriation under s. 20.485(2)(y), veterans loans and expenses, to the appropriation under s. 20.485(2)(vm), veterans aids and treatment, to fund increased demand for the health care aid grant and subsistence aid grant programs.

Governor's Recommendation

Approve the request.

Date: March 27, 1997

To: Members, Joint Committee on Finance

From: Mark D. Bugher, Secretary
Department of Administration 

Subject: Section 13.10 Request from the Department of Veterans Affairs for Health Care Aid Grant and Subsistence Aid Grant Increased Funding.

Request

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) requests a one-time transfer in 1996-97 of \$449,200 SEG from the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2)(y), veterans loans and expenses, to the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2)(vm), veterans aids and treatment, to fund increased demand for the health care aid grant (HCAG) and subsistence aid grant (SAG) programs.

Background

The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized under ss. 45.351 (1) and (1g), 45.396 and 45.397 to make grants to eligible veterans from the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2)(vm), veterans aids and treatment, for the following purposes: (1) to provide emergency subsistence and health care aid to needy veterans; (2) to allow veterans to enroll in part-time study in order to pursue professional, occupational or educational related objectives; and (3) to retrain unemployed and underemployed veterans.

The department funds the following five grant programs from the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2)(vm), veterans aids and treatment: the health care aid grant (HCAG), the subsistence aid grant (SAG), the retraining grant (RTG), the part-time study grant (PTSG), and the death refund grant. A description of each of the five grant programs is as follows:

- **Health care aid grant** helps pay the cost of temporary medical treatment and hospitalization for eligible veterans and their families when they are unable to pay those expenses themselves.
- **Subsistence aid grant** provides temporary emergency financial aid for essential items (food, housing, utilities, etc.) to an eligible veteran or the veteran's dependents when there is a loss of income because of illness, disability or death. Payments are limited to a maximum of 3 months of subsistence aid in a 12-month period.

- **Retraining grant** provides grants of up to \$3,000 per year to recently unemployed or underemployed veterans who demonstrate financial need while being retrained for new employment.
- **Part-time study grant** reimburses eligible veterans for up to \$300 per course or \$1,100 per year for courses taken on a part-time basis. Veterans must apply for reimbursement within 60 days following completion of the course.
- **Death refund grant** provides funds to pay off the remaining balance of an economic assistance loan for the surviving spouse of a veteran if that person does not have the financial resources to pay off the loan. The department has not made any of these grants over the past several years.

Demand for each of the grant programs has had a continual but manageable upward trend of participation over the past three years, including up to the last five months in fiscal year 1997. However, from the period of December 1996 through February 1997, there has been an unanticipated increase in demand for all of the grant programs, except the death refund grant program. Applications submitted to the department for HCAG exceed the budgeted amount of funding available, and the PTSG, SAG and RTG programs have projected fiscal year 1997 expenditures that will exceed budgeted authority. The following table indicates the current fiscal year 1997 budget for each of the grant programs, the fiscal year 1997 projected expenditures based upon past trends, and the projected fiscal year 1997 shortfall.

<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>Current FY97 Budget</u>	<u>Projected FY97 Expenditures</u>	<u>Projected FY97 Shortfall</u>
Part-time Study	\$527,100	\$718,500	(\$191,400)
Health Care Aid	\$435,900	\$1,421,800	(\$985,900)
Subsistence Aid	\$175,800	\$198,800	(\$23,000)
Retraining	\$330,700	\$494,100	(\$163,400)
Death Refund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$1,469,500	\$2,833,200	(\$1,363,700)

The department has identified several reasons for the sudden increase in demand in its grant programs as follows:

- In past budgets the department did not include anticipated inflationary increases based upon annual University System tuition increases in reestimating funding for the part-time study grant program. The PTSG has had an unanticipated increase in usage by Desert Storm veterans. In addition, changes were made under 1995 Wisconsin Act 255 which reduced from ten to five years the residency requirement established to apply for state veterans benefits. Also, more veterans may be

applying for the PTSG in anticipation of reduced benefits recommended in the 1997-99 budget that limit tuition reimbursement from \$300 per course to no more than 50% of an undergraduate course at UW-Madison.

- The HCAG recently experienced numerous administrative rule changes that simplified the application process and expanded eligibility. Changes included shortening the period of contact with the applicant but allowing a good cause for delayed contact provision, excluding coverage for outpatient medications, providing flexibility for the department to accept documentation other than itemized bills, establishing low income levels where veterans automatically qualify, and exempting veterans from applying for an unsecured economic assistance loan to be eligible for HCAG. The department also determined that the definition of dentures included the payment of bridge work. In addition, as part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (USDVA) effort to control federal costs, it eliminated health care benefits to indigent veterans. Increased participation is also a result of changes made under 1995 Wisconsin Act 255 which reduced from ten to five years the residency requirement established to apply for state veterans benefits. Other factors that have increased the demand for HCAG are attributed to the gradual elimination of general welfare assistance in the state and to the likelihood that veterans are using the grant program for more than emergency aid, that is, as a substitute for their own health insurance.
- Under 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, eligibility under the retraining grant program was extended to underemployed veterans. "Underemployed" means the status of a veteran whose annual income from employment does not exceed the federal poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the veteran's family size. Also, through the department's evaluation of the RTG program, it discovered a significant percentage of veterans that were receiving aid from the RTG while also receiving aid from the tuition and fee reimbursement program and the part-time study grant program. It also found that a high percentage of veterans were using the RTG to complete college coursework. The department has indicated that it will recommend changes to restrict eligible training under the RTG to non-college related coursework, which would reduce the RTG funding by \$189,000 per year.
- The subsistence aid grant program provides emergency financial assistance for the most basic needs (food, utilities, rent/mortgage, medications, transportation, insurance) of the most economically disadvantaged veterans. The department awarded 281 grants in FY96 averaging \$658 per grant and have projected that for FY97 an additional \$23,000 SEG over budget is needed to meet the increased demand in this program. The increase in demand is due to several factors including

general inflationary increases in the costs of basic needs of veterans, elimination of general welfare assistance in the state and because the USDVA has discontinued providing benefits to indigent veterans.

Analysis

The department has identified several measures it can take to meet the increased demand of its grant programs without requesting additional expenditure authority of \$1.3 million. In the 1997-99 biennial budget, the department has included statutory language to limit future eligibility under the health care aid grant to veterans who have less than \$1,000 in liquid assets. The department is also reviewing the HCAG program for changes that will target available resources to serve only the most economically disadvantaged veterans. The department hopes to forward these recommended changes to the legislature during the upcoming biennial budget deliberations. Since the department has already received 287 applications under the HCAG, it feels strongly that an obligation to serve these veterans exists and it must meet its commitment by providing aid. These 287 applications total \$426,200 of additional expenditure authority to meet that need. In addition, the department has discontinued accepting any new health care aid grant applications as of March 1, 1997 and has notified the county veterans service officers in each county of this suspension. The suspension of new HCAG applications will reduce otherwise needed expenditure authority for the program by \$559,700 in FY97.

Veterans who would be applying for the PTSG have already begun their spring semester with the expectation of receiving reimbursement upon completion of their coursework. However, since applications for the spring semester are not received until June and July and are not processed until July and August, those payments would not be made until FY98. Applications are estimated to total \$191,400. The department indicates that with the recommended changes in the 1997-99 biennial budget of limiting tuition reimbursement to 50% and building in funding for tuition inflationary increases that the costs paid in FY98 will not affect future funding for the PTSG program.

The department currently has commitments for FY97 under the retraining grant program of \$84,000, which consists of second payments on previously approved grants. Based upon past trends, the department expects to receive an additional \$102,400 in retraining grant applications by the end of FY97. Requests for these payments are typically not received until June and July and disbursement would be made in FY98. Of the \$186,400 in commitments and anticipated applications for FY97, \$163,400 will be paid in FY98 due to the timing of the applications. The department indicates that payment of these costs in FY98 will not affect future funding for the RTG program

because of administrative rule changes the department will make to limit grants to non-college related courses and by eliminating double dipping into the tuition and fee reimbursement and part-time study grant programs.

The department is requesting a transfer of expenditure authority from the veterans loans and expenses appropriation to the veterans aids and treatment appropriation to meet the increased demand in only the HCAG and SAG programs. Specifically, the expenditure authority under the veterans loans and expenses appropriation would come from surplus expenditure authority anticipated in the economic assistance loan (EAL) program. The EAL program provides loans to qualifying veterans with an annual income of \$36,600 or less, plus \$500 additional income allowed for each dependent in excess of two. Loans may be used to purchase a mobile home, business, for education of a veteran, spouse or dependent, for payment of medical or funeral expenses, or for consolidation of debt. The department processed 737 loans under the EAL program totaling expenditures of \$3,189,625 for FY96. In the past three years EAL expenditures have averaged \$2.8 million. Expenditure authority under the EAL program for FY97 is \$4,359,700. The department projects loan expenditures of \$2,555,900 for FY97. Unused expenditure authority in the EAL is \$1,803,800 for FY97. A surplus of expenditure authority in the EAL has been a result of: (1) the success of the consumer loan program implemented in FY95 which placed less restrictions on veterans applying for loans, and (2) the fact that income limits on the EAL have not correspondingly increased with increased in veterans' incomes, thereby limiting the number of eligible veterans who qualify under the EAL program.

Even though a projected shortfall of \$1,363,700 exists in the department's grant program appropriation and it is apparent that there exists a surplus of expenditure authority in the EAL program of \$1,803,800 that would ultimately fund all anticipated expenditures for FY97, the department indicates that full transfer of the surplus EAL expenditure authority into the veterans aids and treatment appropriation would have a negative impact on the veterans trust fund. Loans granted under the EAL program result in a return of principal and interest payments back into the veterans trust fund. Grants awarded for health care, part-time study, retraining and subsistence aid have no return on investment for the veterans trust fund, and thereby reduce available cash balances in the veterans trust fund. Also, since the department indicates it will be recommending changes to control the costs of the HCAG program, it is potentially harmful to recommend that all anticipated expenditures be fully funded by a draw on the veterans trust fund. Fully funding the HCAG would establish a precedent for future funding of a program that needs much further review to control its costs. In addition, the department requested and the Governor recommended in the 1997-99 biennial budget new measures to increase the future viability of the asset base and cash balances of the veterans trust fund. Any additional increase in expenditure authority besides

what the department has recommended based upon prior obligations and commitments in its grant programs would be counterproductive to that goal. However, the limited transfer of expenditure authority of \$449,200 SEG would not have a negative impact on the veterans trust fund cash balance.

Without the transfer of expenditure authority from the economic assistance loan program appropriation to the veterans aids and treatment appropriation, the department cannot meet its grant obligations and approximately 287 current applications for health care benefits will not be provided to needy veterans. In addition, emergency aid to the most disadvantaged veterans under the subsistence aid program will also not be available without the transfer of expenditure authority.

Summary of the Request

<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>FY97 Budget</u>	<u>FY97 Projected Expenditures</u>	<u>Expenditures Paid in FY97</u>	<u>Costs Eliminated or Paid in FY98</u>
Part-time Study	\$527,100	\$718,500	\$527,100	\$191,400
Health Care Aid	\$435,900	\$1,421,800	**\$862,100	*\$559,700
Subsistence Aid	\$175,800	\$198,800	**\$198,800	\$0
Retraining	\$330,700	\$494,100	\$330,700	\$163,400
Death Refund	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Totals	\$1,469,500	\$2,833,200	\$1,918,700	\$914,500

* \$559,700 is estimated expenditure authority not needed due to suspension of any new applications for the HCAG program (as of March 1, 1997).

** Includes funding of \$426,000 for HCAG and \$23,000 for SAG requested under this s. 13.10 request.

Recommendation

Approve the request.

Prepared by: Pamela Henning
 267-0371



VETERANS AFFAIRS

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

February 24, 1997

Senator , Brian Burke Co-Chair
Representative Scott Jensen, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

Dear Senator Burke and Representative Jensen:

From the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (vm), the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) makes grants to eligible veterans for the following purposes: (1) To provide emergency subsistence and health care aid to needy veterans; (2) To retrain unemployed and underemployed veterans; and (3) To allow veterans to enroll in part-time study in order to pursue professional, occupational or educational related objectives. The department has traditionally been able to meet the demand for those grants from the funding allocated for those grants. However, because of a combination of factors, demand for the grants will exceed available funding for FY 97.

Request

The Department of Veterans Affairs requests that the Joint Committee on Finance approve the transfer of \$449,200 in expenditure authority from Appropriation 20.485 (2) (y), Veterans Loans and Expenses, to Appropriation 20.485 (2) (vm), Veterans Aids and Treatment. The transfer of expenditure authority is needed due to unusual demand for Health Care Aid Grants (HCAG). Current expenditure authority for loans in Appropriation 20.485 (2) (y), Veterans Aids and Treatment is \$4,359,700. It is estimated that a total of \$2,600,000 of economic assistance loans will be made from that appropriation during FY97, which leaves a balance of nearly \$1,760,000 of surplus expenditure authority. There is no negative impact upon the Veterans Trust Fund with this request.

Background

The following five grant programs funded under Appropriation 20.485 (2) (vm), Veterans Aids and Treatment:

- **Health Care Aid Grants (HCAG)**-- helps pay the cost of temporary medical treatment and hospitalization for eligible veterans and their families when they are unable to pay those expenses themselves.
- **Subsistence Aid Grants (SAG)**-- provides temporary emergency financial aid for essential items (food, housing, utilities, etc.) to an eligible veteran or the veteran's dependents when there is a loss of income because of illness, disability or death. Payments are limited to a maximum of 3 months of subsistence aid in a 12-month period.
- **Retraining Grants (RTG)**-- provides grants of up to \$3,000 per year to recently unemployed or underemployed veterans who demonstrate financial need while being retrained for new employment.

- **Part-time Study Grants (PTSG)**-- reimburses eligible veterans for up to \$300 per course or \$1,100 per year for courses taken on a part-time basis. Veterans must apply for reimbursement within 60 days following completion of the course.
- **Death Refund Grant**-- provides funds to payoff the remaining balance of an Economic Assistance Loan for the surviving spouse of a veteran if that person does not have the financial resources to payoff the loan. The department has not made any of these grants over the past several years.

In the past the department has been able to meet the demand for the above grants from the annual expenditure authority provided for that purpose. Total grant costs charged to that appropriation have tended to increase slightly in each of the past three years. That trend appeared to be continuing through the first five months of FY97. However, during the period from December 1996 through mid-February, there has been an unprecedented, and unanticipated, increase in demand for Health Care Aid Grants and Retraining Grants. We currently have applications that exceed the budgeted amount of available funding.

The department has identified several reasons for the sharp increase in health care aid grant requests. Recent administrative rule changes simplified the application process and expanded eligibility. These changes caused the fiscal impacts to greatly exceed our estimated increases. Another factor that has had an impact is that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is no longer providing health care services to indigent veterans.

The department has included language in the budget bill that will limit future eligibility to veterans who have less than \$1,000 in liquid assets. This measure should limit demand for health care aid grants beginning in FY98. The department is also identifying other changes to the program that would target resources in a way that would contain costs while continuing to meet the needs of the economically disadvantaged veterans. Those changes would also provide for a more equitable distribution of the available resources.

In order to contain costs for the remainder of FY97, the department is suspending acceptance of new applications for Health Care Aid Grants effective February 28, 1997. The department will honor existing commitments to pay Health Care Aid Grants that are in-house. It is the intent of the department to continue to accept applications for the other grant programs. The rationale for these actions are as follows:

- The Subsistence Aid Grant program provides emergency financial assistance for the most basic subsistence needs of the most economically disadvantaged veterans. It is the department's position that it is critical to the well-being of affected veterans and their dependents that this aid continue to be available to those individuals. An additional \$23,000 of expenditure authority is needed to cover anticipated subsistence aid grant costs for FY97.
- The department has approximately \$450,000 in Health Care Aid Grant applications in-house that the department has made various commitments to pay. In many instances the veterans have already begun treatment. A total of \$426,200 of the additional expenditure authority being requested is to cover those costs. Discontinuing the acceptance of applications for Health Care Aid Grants for the remainder of FY97 would reduce expenditures for that program by an estimated \$559,700.
- The vast majority of veterans who would be applying for a Part-time Study Grant have already started the spring semester with the expectation to be reimbursed at the end of that semester. It is estimated that \$191,400 in Part-time Study Grants would be received during that period. Those applications are not received until June and July and are not processed until July or August. Those payments would also be made in FY98.

- The department has Retraining Grant commitments of approximately \$84,000, which represent second payments on previously approved grants and expects to receive an additional \$102,400 by the end of FY97. Requests for those payments are typically not received until June and July, and

The steps outlined above provide a fiscally responsible approach to addressing the funding shortage in Appropriation 20.485 (2) (vm), as well as minimize any adverse impacts on veterans. The additional \$449,200 of additional expenditure authority requested in this s. 13.10 request is needed to cover the funding shortfall for both the Health Care Aid Grant and Subsistence Aid Grant programs that cannot be paid from the remaining balances in Appropriation 20.485 (2) (vm).

Attached is a B-3 form of the revenues and expenditures, including the requested \$449,200 of additional expenditure authority, that shows approval of this request will not have an adverse fiscal effect on the cash balances of the Trust Fund. The department respectfully requests that the Joint Committee on Finance approve the request for the transfer of \$449,200 of expenditure authority from Appropriation 20.485 (2) (y), Veterans loans and expenses, to Appropriation 20.485 (2) (vm), Veterans Aids and Treatment.

How Request Meets Statutory Criteria for s. 13.10

The request meets the criteria under s. 13.101 (3) because of the following reasons:

- Without the requested increase in expenditure authority, the department can not meet its current grant obligations and commitments.
- Meeting those obligations is consistent with the legislative intent for the economic assistance provided under s. 45.351, Wis. Stats., including Health Care Aid Grants and Subsistence Aid Grants.
- No other funds are available to fund FY97 grant obligations.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Charles Hoslet at 266-3081.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



RAYMOND G. BOLAND
SECRETARY

REVENUE AND BALANCE

Form B-3

TITLES

CODES

DEPARTMENT	Veterans Affairs
PROGRAM	Loans and Aids to Veterans
FUND	Veterans Trust Fund
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	
DECISION ITEM	
REVENUE TYPE	
SEG	

	REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES	PRIOR YEAR ACTUALS	BASE YEAR ESTIMATE	1ST YEAR ESTIMATE	2ND YEAR ESTIMATE
1	OPENING BALANCE	\$ 12,370,582	\$ 15,661,534	\$ 14,453,702	\$ 16,166,287
2	SECOND MTG LOAN INTEREST	\$ 137,706	\$ 106,661	\$ 98,947	\$ 91,087
3	SECOND MTG LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 652,929	\$ 230,962	\$ 235,388	\$ 238,508
4	EAL LOAN INTEREST	\$ 550,825	\$ 458,200	\$ 491,600	\$ 327,300
5	EAL LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 2,771,284	\$ 2,580,500	\$ 2,768,300	\$ 1,842,900
6	CLP LOAN INTEREST	\$ 2,068,180	\$ 1,792,843	\$ 1,577,116	\$ 1,351,627
7	CLP LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 4,966,830	\$ 2,899,482	\$ 3,066,795	\$ 3,129,491
8	MUSEUM SALES	\$ 136,382	\$ 120,000	\$ 132,700	\$ 132,700
9	LOAN SERVICE FEES	\$ 236,909	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -
10	POOL SHARE INTEREST	\$ 733,994	\$ 626,500	\$ 578,600	\$ 649,100
11	OTHER INCOME AND GRANTS	\$ 18,370	\$ 16,100	\$ 16,100	\$ 16,100
12	REVENUE BOND MONTHLY PAYMENTS		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
13	"NS" APPROP. CASH TRANSFER FROM FUND 583		\$ 1,700,000	\$ -	\$ -
14	"NS" APPROP. LOAN PORTFOLIO INTEREST		\$ 4,379,129	\$ 4,240,163	\$ -
15	"NS" APPROP. LOAN PORTFOLIO PRINCIPAL		\$ 2,071,220	\$ 2,219,675	\$ -
16	PERSONAL LOAN PROGRAM INTEREST		\$ 438,041	\$ 1,477,437	\$ -
17	PERSONAL LOAN PROGRAM PRINCIPAL		\$ 438,949	\$ 1,585,027	\$ -
18	SWIB LOAN PROCEEDS		\$ 7,500,000	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 7,500,000
19					
20					
21	TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,273,409	\$ 8,991,248	\$ 25,550,885	\$ 24,861,115
22	TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$24,643,991	\$ 24,652,782	\$ 40,004,587	\$ 41,027,402
23	B-2 EXPENDITURES TOTAL	\$8,982,457	\$ 10,199,080	\$ 16,288,400	\$ 17,867,100
24					
25	EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION RESERVES			\$ 33,900	\$ 67,600
26	Health Insurance Reserve			\$ 16,000	\$ 33,100
27					
28					
29					
30					
31	New Personal Loans Financed with Funds Borrowed from SWIB			\$ 7,500,000	\$ 7,500,000
32					
33					
34					
35	TOTAL EXPENDITURES & RESERVES	\$8,982,457	\$ 10,199,080	\$ 23,838,300	\$ 25,467,800
36	CLOSING BALANCE	\$15,661,534	\$ 14,453,702	\$ 16,166,287	\$ 15,559,602



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

March 27, 1997

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Administration--Approval of Joint Application Under the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program--Agenda Item II

BACKGROUND

The volunteer health care provider program is authorized under s. 146.89 of the statutes. The purpose of the program is to allow volunteer health care providers, in connection with a non-profit entity, to offer their services without charge to provide basic medical care for low-income, uninsured persons who do not receive health care from other publicly-funded programs such as medicaid. The statute defines a "volunteer health care provider" as a licensed physician, dentist, registered nurse, practical nurse, nurse-midwife, optometrist, or physician's assistant who receives no income from the provision of health care services at a non-profit agency under the volunteer health care provider program.

To participate in the program, the health care provider must submit a joint application with a non-profit agency to the Department of Administration (DOA). The Department may request the Medical Examining Board in the Department of Regulation and Licensing to review any application. If DOA so requests, the Board must evaluate the application and provide a recommendation to DOA regarding whether the application should be approved by DOA. The Department of Administration is authorized to approve any application for volunteer health care providers and non-profit agencies which propose to provide services in the following counties: Brown, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, and Sheboygan. However, for individuals and non-profit agencies proposing to provide services in any other county, DOA is required to submit the joint application to the Joint Committee on Finance for its review and approval under s. 13.10 of the statutes.

Individuals approved to provide services under the volunteer health care provider program are statutorily considered agents of the Department of Health and Family Services, and thus are provided the same coverage as is provided to state employees under the following statutory

provisions: (1) the right to representation by the Attorney General if required to appear as a witness in any administrative or civil matter; (2) coverage under the requirement that any civil claim against the volunteer provider be filed within 120 days of the event allegedly causing the injury, except in the case of medical malpractice, in which case the claim must be filed within 180 days after either the discovery of the injury or the date on which the injury should have been discovered; and (3) a requirement that any judgements against the provider be paid by the state when the provider is acting within the scope of his or her "employment" (in this case, as a volunteer provider in a volunteer health care provider program).

ANALYSIS

The Department's request is for the Committee's approval of a joint application submitted by St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta (a non-profit agency located in Monroe County) and the provider applicants listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Profession</u>	<u>Specialty (if any)</u>
Davis, Margret S.	Registered Nurse	
Halbur, Richard B.	Physician Assistant	
Hammes, Barbara A.	Nurse Midwife/Practitioner	
Howells, Kathryn, S.	Physician	Family Practice
Hutson, Darlene M.	Registered Nurse	
Jolivette, Sharron L.	Nurse Midwife	
Raftery, Patricia	Physician	Family Practice
Ross, Michael J.	Physician Assistant	Family Practice
Schure, Judith A.	Registered Nurse	
Schuster, Judy M.	Registered Nurse	
Steinbrink, Mavis J.	Practical Nurse	

Because Monroe County is not among those counties for which DOA may directly approve applications, a request for approval of the joint application has been submitted to the Committee.

St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta has been in operation since November, 1996 and is located in the Professional Arts Center at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare--Sparta Campus. The clinic focuses on the treatment of acute and chronic problem and preventative care. Service is provided one night per week at no cost to those who do not have insurance or other medical coverage.

The Department of Administration has verified, through the Department of Regulation and Licensing that each of the above providers is currently licensed. As a result, the Committee may wish to approve the request.

The letter from DOA for approval of this joint application also includes a request that for any subsequent applications jointly submitted by St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta and additional volunteer health care providers in Monroe County, DOA be allowed to submit such applications under a 14-day passive review process to the Committee. The non-profit agency has indicated that 20 additional providers may submit applications within the next month. Similar authority was provided to the Donated Health Care Service, Inc. of Washington County when its joint application was considered for approval at the Committee's 13.10 meeting in April, 1996. The Committee could include, therefore, authorization of 14-day passive review for process for approval of the related addition of any volunteer health care providers to the joint provider application with St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta.

CONCLUSION

Each of the applicants listed in the table above have had their current licensure verified through the Department of Regulation and Licensing. Thus, the Committee may wish to approve this joint application. In addition, the Committee may wish to provide that for any additional applications that need to be approved by the Committee which involve additional volunteer health care providers who are applying in joint application with St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta (Monroe County only), such requests for application approval may be submitted to the Committee under a 14-day passive review process.

Prepared by: Jere Bauer

MO#	Conclusion		
2	BURKE	(Y)	N A
	DECKER	(Y)	N A
	GEORGE	Y	N (A)
	JAUCH	Y	N (A)
	WINEKE	(Y)	N A
	SHIBILSKI	(Y)	N A
	COWLES	(Y)	N A
	PANZER	(Y)	N A
1	JENSEN	(Y)	N A
	OURADA	(Y)	N A
	HARSDORF	(Y)	N A
	ALBERS	(Y)	N A
	PORTER	(Y)	N A
	KAUFERT	(Y)	N A
	LINTON	(Y)	N A
	COGGS	(Y)	N A

AYE 14 NO 0 ABS 2