



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #821

County Veterans Service Officer Grants (DVA -- General Agency Provisions)

[LFB 2009-11 Budget Summary: Page 670, #15]

CURRENT LAW

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) awards grants to counties that maintain and operate a county veterans service office (CVSO) consistent with standards developed by the Department. Reimbursement for full-time CVSO's are: (a) \$8,500 per year for counties with a population under 20,000; (b) \$10,000 per year for counties with a population from 20,000 to 45,499; (c) \$11,500 per year for counties with a population between 45,500 and 74,999; and (d) \$13,000 per year for counties with more than 75,000 people. Counties with part-time CVSO's are eligible for a \$500 reimbursement. Currently, 60% of the CVSO grants are paid from the segregated mortgage loan repayment fund and 40% are paid from the segregated veterans trust fund. Base funding for CVSO grants is \$753,500 SEG.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$76,500 PR and -\$64,500 SEG in 2009-10 and \$76,200 PR and -\$68,700 in 2010-11 for CVSO grants. Newly specify that a portion of CVSO grants would be paid from revenues of the Veterans Homes. Specify that no more than \$100,000 annually may be expended from DVA's institutional operations appropriation for CVSO grants.

Funding changes under the bill include \$76,500 PR in 2009-10 and \$76,200 PR in 2010-11 from Veterans Homes receipts, -\$113,600 SEG in 2009-10 and -\$113,000 SEG in 2010-11 from the mortgage loan repayment fund, and \$37,100 SEG in 2009-10 and \$36,800 SEG in 2010-11 from the veterans trust fund.

Under the bill, 45% of the grants would be paid from the mortgage loan repayment fund, 45% from the veterans trust fund, and 10% would be paid from program revenue of the Veterans Homes operations. Total CVSO grant funding of \$757,900 (all funds) in 2009-10 and

\$753,400 (all funds) in 2010-11, would be provided as follows: (a) \$341,500 SEG in 2009-10 and \$339,400 SEG in 2010-11 from the veterans trust fund; (b) \$339,900 SEG in 2009-10 and \$337,800 SEG in 2010-11 from the mortgage loan repayment fund; and (c) \$76,500 PR in 2009-10 and \$76,200 PR in 2010-11 from the Veterans Homes receipts. The total amounts available for CVSO grants would be reduced by \$7,600 annually under the proposed 1% across-the board reductions.

MODIFICATION

Specify that the Department may annually expend, for grants to county veterans service offices, the amounts in the schedule under a newly-created county grants appropriation [s. 20.485(1)(jn) of the statutes] funded from the institutional operations of the Veterans Homes [s. 20.485(1)(gk) of the statutes]. Delete modifications to the institutional operations of the Veterans Homes appropriation related to making grants to county veterans service offices.

Explanation: Under the bill, a new "county grants" appropriation is created under the Chapter 20 appropriation schedule, showing the correct annual payments of 10% of the CVSO grants. However, the language allowing the payments is created under the existing institutional operations appropriation while no additional funding is provided under this appropriation. This modification would delete a reference to payments for CVSO grants directly from the institutional operations appropriation and instead specify that these payments could be made from the newly created appropriation. Under the bill a statutory maximum (\$100,000 annually) would have been established within the institutional operations appropriation to provide a limit for CVSO payments within a larger appropriation. This maximum would not be needed under a separate appropriation, as total funding would be set in the Chapter 20 appropriation schedule.

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