

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

Page 1, line 2, after "affairs" insert "; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$549,094	\$3,631,868
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "FUNDING" insert "- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY"

Page 1, line 23, after "biennium" insert "and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 2 through 7 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$78,000
Accrued leave	0	19,066
Transport van	0	18,800
Veterans' home cemetery	291,500	291,500
Fisher house construction assistant grant program	500,000	0
Veterans' medical transportation	147,000	0
Total all funds	\$938,500	\$407,366
Less estimated income	938,500	291,500
Total general fund	\$0	\$115,866

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION - POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.** The \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Session Laws and the \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 53 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from

this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 4. EXEMPTION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.**

The \$647,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund in subsections 32 and 33 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Session Laws, of which \$500,000 was for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center and \$147,000 was for improving and expanding veterans' medical transportation, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from these programs are available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$3,082,774</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>	<b>\$3,631,868</b>
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
FTE	8.00	1.00	9.00

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of House Changes**

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding to Convert a Temporary Position to an FTE Position <sup>3</sup>	Adjusts Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>5</sup>	Removes funding for the PTSD Service Dog Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,607	
State approving agency	1,687	16,594			2,373	
Grants - Transportation program				(93,915)		
Transport vans						
Service dogs						(\$50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$117,887</b>	<b>\$99,966</b>	<b>(\$43,915)</b>	<b>\$5,980</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
Less estimated income	1,687	16,594	0	(93,915)	2,247	0
General fund	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,733	(\$50,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Accrued Leave of Retiring Staff <sup>8</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding to Purchase a Transport Van <sup>9</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program <sup>10</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$78,000	\$19,066			\$362,055
State approving agency					20,654
Grants - Transportation program					(93,915)
Transport vans			\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs					(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery				\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>	<b>\$19,066</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>
Less estimated income	0	0	0	291,500	218,113
General fund	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$0	\$330,981
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
Health insurance increase	<u>30,696</u>	<u>6,140</u>	<u>36,836</u>
Total	\$101,293	\$16,594	\$117,887

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$99,966 is added from the general fund to convert a temporary position to a 1.00 FTE veterans benefit specialist position.

<sup>4</sup> Funding is adjusted for the highly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$1,126,085 from federal funds.

<sup>5</sup> Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reduces funding for operating expenses	(\$6)	(\$126)	(\$132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses to provide a total of \$312,678 from federal funds	<u>0</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>937</u>
Total	\$3,733	\$2,247	\$5,980

<sup>6</sup> Funding from the general fund is removed for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program to reduce the ongoing appropriation from \$50,000 to \$0. A section is added to the bill to authorize the department an exemption to continue funding for the program appropriated during the 2019-21 and 2021-23 bienniums into the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>7</sup> One-time funding of \$78,000 is added from the general fund for a document scanning project to scan paper copies of veteran documents into digital copies.

<sup>8</sup> One-time funding of \$19,066 is added from the general fund for accrued leave of retiring staff.

<sup>9</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans during the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>10</sup> One-time funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program, of which \$265,000 is from federal funds and \$26,500 is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).