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Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senate Appropriations - Human  
Resources Division Committee  
February 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2007**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' home;  
2 to create and enact a new section to chapter 37-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
3 to meals provided to employees of the veterans' home; to provide an exemption; to provide for a  
4 legislative management study; and to declare an emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds  
7 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
8 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from other funds derived from special funds and  
9 federal funds, to the veterans' home for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the veterans'  
10 home, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

		Adjustments or		
	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>		<u>Appropriation</u>
13	Salaries and wages	\$20,582,989	\$0	\$20,582,989
14	Operating expenses	6,061,325	0	6,061,325
15	Capital assets	<u>407,252</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>407,252</u>
16	Total all funds	\$27,051,566	\$0	\$27,051,566
17	Less other funds	<u>20,833,167</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,833,167</u>
18	Total general fund	\$6,218,399	\$0	\$6,218,399
19	Full-time equivalent positions	114.79	0.00	114.79
20	<u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$20,582,989</u>	<u>\$1,615,877</u>	<u>\$22,198,866</u>

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

1	<u>New and vacant FTE pool</u>	0	852,924	852,924
2	<u>Operating expenses</u>	6,061,325	1,107,368	7,168,693
3	<u>Capital assets</u>	407,252	725,055	1,132,307
4	<u>Total all funds</u>	\$27,051,566	\$4,301,224	\$31,352,790
5	<u>Less other funds</u>	20,833,167	4,301,224	25,134,391
6	<u>Total general fund</u>	\$6,218,399	\$0	\$6,218,399
7	<u>Full-time equivalent positions</u>	114.79	0.00	114.79

8 ~~SECTION 2. OTHER FUNDS - SOLDIERS' HOME FUND - ADMINISTRATOR HOUSING-~~  
 9 ~~STIPEND. The other funds appropriation in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$48,000-~~  
 10 ~~from the soldiers' home fund for the purpose of providing a \$2,000 monthly housing stipend to-~~  
 11 ~~the veterans' home administrator for housing costs off the veterans' home campus.~~

12 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**  
 13 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding  
 14 items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's  
 15 base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations  
 16 committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

17	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
18	Building maintenance	\$390,000
19	Resident garages and storage units	175,000
20	Equipment	22,050
21	Total	\$587,050

22 **SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST.** The  
 23 veterans' home may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool line item in  
 24 section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to transfer funds  
 25 from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in accordance  
 26 with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as approved by the  
 27 sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

28 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 37-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
 29 and enacted as follows:

1 Meals provided to employees of the veterans' home.

2 In the event of a disruption of operations, the veterans' home may provide meals at a fair  
3 value or without a charge to employees of the veterans' home as required by the job  
4 assignments of the employees.

5 **SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS - REPORT.** Notwithstanding section  
6 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget may transfer up to \$400,000  
7 from special funds from the salaries and wages line item to the operating expenses line item in  
8 section 1 of chapter 7 of the 2023 Session Laws, during the period beginning with the effective  
9 date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2025, as requested by the veterans' home. The veterans'  
10 home shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

11 **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - VETERANS' HOME FACILITIES.**

12 During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the usage of the  
13 veterans' home facilities. The study must consider any organizational changes necessary to  
14 increase resident census at the veterans' home, potential uses for unoccupied space, and  
15 federal requirements. The legislative management shall report its findings and  
16 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
17 the seventieth legislative assembly.

18 **SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.** Section 5 of this Act and the sum of \$175,000 appropriated  
19 from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund for resident garages and storage units in the other  
20 funds line item in section 1 of this Act are declared to be an emergency measure.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2007 - Veterans' Home - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$20,582,989	\$1,615,877	\$22,198,866
New and vacant FTE pool		852,924	852,924
Operating expenses	6,061,325	1,107,368	7,168,693
Capital assets	407,252	725,055	1,132,307
Total all funds	\$27,051,566	\$4,301,224	\$31,352,790
Less estimated income	20,833,167	4,301,224	25,134,391
General fund	\$6,218,399	\$0	\$6,218,399
FTE	114.79	0.00	114.79

**Department 313 - Veterans' Home - Detail of Senate Changes**

	Adjusts Funding for Base Payroll Changes <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding to Replace 2023-25 Vacant FTE Pool <sup>3</sup>	Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Base Funding for Temporary Salaries and Overtime <sup>5</sup>	Adjusts Base Funding for Operating Expenses <sup>6</sup>
Salaries and wages	(\$37,529)	\$1,382,308	\$892,213	(\$1,218,463)	(\$167,652)	
New and vacant FTE pool				852,924		
Operating expenses						(\$78,000)
Capital assets						
Total all funds	(\$37,529)	\$1,382,308	\$892,213	(\$365,539)	(\$167,652)	(\$78,000)
Less estimated income	(37,529)	1,382,308	892,213	(365,539)	(167,652)	(78,000)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for Information Technology Expenses <sup>7</sup>	Adds Funding for Nursing Salaries <sup>8</sup>	Adds Funding For Contract Nursing Expenses <sup>9</sup>	Adds Funding for Operating Expenses <sup>10</sup>	Adds Funding for Equipment <sup>11</sup>	Adjusts Funding for Bond and Interest Payments <sup>12</sup>
Salaries and wages		\$765,000				
New and vacant FTE pool						
Operating expenses	\$213,305		\$275,000	\$550,613		
Capital assets					\$279,500	\$4,955
Total all funds	\$213,305	\$765,000	\$275,000	\$550,613	\$279,500	\$4,955
Less estimated income	213,305	765,000	275,000	550,613	279,500	4,955
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One-Time Funding for Building Maintenance <sup>13</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Resident Garages and Storage Units <sup>14</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Equipment <sup>15</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages				\$1,615,877
New and vacant FTE pool				852,924
Operating expenses	\$130,000		\$16,450	1,107,368
Capital assets	260,000	\$175,000	5,600	725,055
Total all funds	\$390,000	\$175,000	\$22,050	\$4,301,224
Less estimated income	390,000	175,000	22,050	4,301,224
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2025-27 biennium salary adjustments of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,643 to \$1,893 per month:

	<b>Other Funds</b>
Salary increase	\$631,648
Health insurance increase	<u>750,660</u>
Total	\$1,382,308

<sup>3</sup> Funding is added from local funds to replace 2023-25 biennium vacant FTE pool funding.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$1,218,463 is removed for estimated savings from vacant 2025-27 FTE positions and \$852,924 is added for a new and vacant FTE pool line item resulting in net savings of \$365,539.

<sup>5</sup> Reduces base funding for overtime (\$13,108), temporary salaries (\$125,000), and shift differential pay (\$29,544).

<sup>6</sup> Reduces funding for travel (\$48,000) and information technology equipment (\$30,000).

<sup>7</sup> Adds funding for information technology rate increases, software, and services.

<sup>8</sup> Adds funding for salaries and wages, including \$550,000 for nursing salary equity increases, \$200,000 for nursing overtime, and \$15,000 to convert an FTE licensed practical nurse (LPN) position to an FTE registered nurse (RN) position.

<sup>9</sup> Adds funding for increased contract nursing costs.

<sup>10</sup> Adds funding for State Fire and Tornado insurance premium increases (\$15,100), utilities (\$65,000), repairs (\$43,229), resident food expenses (\$100,000), resident medical expenses (\$277,284), and marketing and advertising (\$50,000).

<sup>11</sup> Adds funding for equipment replacement and upgrades, including a water heater (\$40,000), medication carts (\$40,000), dish washing machines (\$30,000), temperature sensor readers (\$35,000), card access (\$80,000), a skid steer (\$36,000), and other equipment (\$18,500).

<sup>12</sup> Adjusts funding for bond and interest payments.

<sup>13</sup> One-time funding is added for building maintenance for the following items:

	<b>Other Funds</b>
Door openers replacement	\$80,000
Interior repainting	50,000
Carpet replacement	<u>260,000</u>
Total	\$390,000

<sup>14</sup> Adds one-time funding from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund for resident garages and storage units.

<sup>15</sup> One-time funding is added for equipment for the following items:

	<b>Other Funds</b>
Equipment under \$5,000	\$16,450
Commercial floor cleaning machine	<u>5,600</u>
Total	\$22,050

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**Senate Bill No. 2007 - Other Changes - Senate Action**

A section is removed relating to the Veterans' Home administrator housing stipend.

Sections are added to:

- Provide for the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE pool line item.
- Create a new section to Chapter 37-15 to allow the Veterans' Home to provide meals to employees in the event

of a disruption of operations.

- Provide authority for the Veterans' Home to transfer up to \$400,000 from special funds from the salaries and wages line item to the operating expenses line item during the 2023-25 biennium.
- Provide for a Legislative Management study of the usage of the Veterans' Home facilities.
- Declare emergencies for the resident garage and storage units funding and the line item transfer.