

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Budget 321
House Bill No. 1007**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2003-05 legislative appropriation	5.00	\$480,798	\$43,494	\$524,292
2001-03 legislative appropriation	<u>5.00</u>	<u>496,556</u>	<u>20,789</u>	<u>517,345</u>
2003-05 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2001-03 appropriation	0.00	(\$15,758)	\$22,705	\$6,947

Item Description

Performance audit - Section 3 of House Bill No. 1007 directs the State Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs during the 2003-05 biennium and report the results to the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee by July 1, 2004, and to the Appropriations Committees of the 59th Legislative Assembly as part of the agency's budget presentation.

Strategic plan - Section 3 of 2003 Senate Bill No. 2299 directs the subcommittee governing the Department of Veterans Affairs to create and implement a strategic plan for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs subcommittee - Senate Bill No. 2299 directs the chairman and secretary of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs to jointly appoint a subcommittee to be responsible for supervision and governance of the Department of Veterans Affairs. A member of the subcommittee may not serve on the governing board of the Veterans Home. The subcommittee shall select, by majority vote of the members, a chairman to preside for the term of one year. The commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs serves at the pleasure of the subcommittee.

Status/Result

The Department of Veterans Affairs indicated that the State Auditor anticipates completing the draft performance audit by the end of March 2004. The results of the performance audit will be presented to the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee during the June or July 2004 meeting and the Appropriations Committees of the 59th Legislative Assembly as part of the agency's budget presentation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has prepared a strategic plan. The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs plans to hire a consultant to further develop the plan. The estimated cost of hiring a consultant is approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000; however, the Department of Veterans Affairs did not receive funding for developing a strategic plan. In April 2004 the Emergency Commission approved \$25,000 from the state contingencies appropriation for expenses related to implementation of a strategic plan.

As of April 30, 2004, the subcommittee has not met and a chairman has not been appointed. The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs has been addressing matters related to the Department of Veterans Affairs.