

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' home;
2 [to provide for a legislative management study](#); and to provide for a report.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
5 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
6 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
7 other income, to the veterans' home for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the veterans'
8 home, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	Base Level	Adjustments or Enhancements	Appropriation
11 Salaries and wages	\$19,209,879	\$1,498,866	\$20,708,745
12 Operating expenses	5,539,333	88,842	5,628,175
13 Capital assets	407,271	1,787,811	2,195,082
14 Total all funds	\$25,156,483	\$3,375,519	\$28,532,002
15 Less estimated income	19,375,840	2,981,886	22,357,726
16 Total general fund	\$5,780,643	\$393,633	\$6,174,276
17 Full-time equivalent positions	114.79	0.00	114.79
18 <u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$19,209,879</u>	<u>\$849,837</u>	<u>\$20,059,716</u>
19 <u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>5,539,333</u>	<u>538,842</u>	<u>6,078,175</u>
20 <u>Capital assets</u>	<u>407,271</u>	<u>2,437,811</u>	<u>2,845,082</u>
21 <u>Total all funds</u>	<u>\$25,156,483</u>	<u>\$3,826,490</u>	<u>\$28,982,973</u>
22 <u>Less estimated income</u>	<u>19,375,840</u>	<u>3,597,134</u>	<u>22,972,974</u>
23 <u>Total general fund</u>	<u>\$5,780,643</u>	<u>\$229,356</u>	<u>\$6,009,999</u>
24 <u>Full-time equivalent positions</u>	<u>114.79</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>114.79</u>

1 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**

2 **SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding
3 items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the
4 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

5	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
6	Indoor parking and storage	\$0	\$750,000
7	Parking lot and road repairs	0	600,000
8	<u>Parking lot and road repairs</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,100,000</u>
9	Equipment	16,700	125,750
10	Thermostat replacements	131,500	328,930
11	<u>Thermostat replacements</u>	<u>131,500</u>	<u>478,930</u>
12	Resident absences	25,000	0
13	Memorial garden project	200,000	0
14	COVID-19 pandemic costs	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>0</u>
15	Total all funds	\$1,673,200	\$1,804,680
16	Less estimated income	1,648,200	1,804,680
17	<u>Total all funds</u>	<u>\$1,673,200</u>	<u>\$2,454,680</u>
18	<u>Less estimated income</u>	<u>1,648,200</u>	<u>2,454,680</u>
19	Total general fund	\$25,000	\$0

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

24 **SECTION 3. ESTIMATED INCOME - SOLDIERS' HOME FUND - ADMINISTRATOR**

25 **HOUSING STIPEND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum
26 of \$48,000 from the soldiers' home fund for the purpose of providing a \$2,000 monthly housing
27 stipend to the veterans' home administrator for housing costs off the veterans' home campus.

28 ~~**SECTION 4. ESTIMATED INCOME -- STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**~~
29 ~~**FUND -- PARKING LOT AND ROAD REPAIRS -- ONE-TIME FUNDING.**~~ The estimated income
30 ~~line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$600,000 from the strategic investment and~~

1 ~~improvements fund for the purpose of repairing parking lots and roads on the veterans' home-~~
2 ~~campus. This funding is considered a one-time funding item.~~

3 **SECTION 4. ESTIMATED INCOME - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -**
4 **THERMOSTAT REPLACEMENTS ~~ONE-TIME FUNDING~~.** The estimated income line item in
5 section 1 of this Act includes the sum of ~~\$328,930~~\$478,930 from federal funds derived from the
6 state fiscal recovery fund for the purpose of a thermostat and air handling unit replacement
7 project. ~~This funding is considered a one-time funding item.~~

8 **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - VETERANS' HOME**
9 **GOVERNANCE.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider
10 studying current and future governance needs of the veterans' home. The study must include a
11 review of the report provided in section 6 of this Act. The study must consider the current duties
12 and responsibilities of the administrative committee on veterans' affairs, the veterans' home
13 governing board, and the veterans' home administrator and any organizational changes
14 necessary to provide services for veterans and veterans' spouses, increase resident census at
15 the veterans' home, accomplish goals included in the veterans' home strategic plan, and ensure
16 the long-term viability of the veterans' home. The legislative management shall report its
17 findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
18 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

19 **SECTION 6. VETERANS' HOME STRATEGIC PLAN - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**
20 **REPORT - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The veterans' home shall
21 report to the legislative management by January 1, 2024, regarding the status of implementing
22 recommendations included in the veterans' home strategic plan as provided for in section 1 of
23 chapter 7 of the 2019 Session Laws. The veterans' home shall forward a copy of the report to
24 the governor and each United States senator and congressman representing North Dakota. The
25 veterans' home shall provide an updated report to the appropriations committees of the
26 sixty-ninth legislative assembly, the governor, and each United States senator and
27 congressman representing North Dakota during the 2025 legislative session. The report must
28 include information on the status and progress of:

- 29 1. The veterans' home current and future planned marketing initiative outcomes,
30 including:

- 1 a. Marketing efforts to community-based outpatient clinics throughout the state and
- 2 how the veterans' home can increase community-based services to veterans
- 3 statewide; and
- 4 b. How the agency will increase statewide awareness of the veterans' home,
- 5 including promoting services available to veterans and veterans' spouses;
- 6 2. Implementation of minimum data set and documentation audit recommendations to
- 7 increase operational efficiencies, census, and staffing;
- 8 3. The veterans' home and each United States senator and congressman representing
- 9 North Dakota collaborating to negotiate with the United States department of veterans
- 10 affairs on the forgiveness of approximately \$15,700,000 of federal funding used in the
- 11 construction of the veterans' home and the other options regarding federal funding
- 12 concerns;
- 13 4. Evaluating options to adjust basic care and skilled care reimbursement rates to more
- 14 adequately compensate for services provided to veterans and veterans' spouses;
- 15 5. The feasibility of providing collaborative hospice care at the veterans' home and the
- 16 creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs
- 17 and revenue;
- 18 6. The feasibility of providing assisted and independent living care at the veterans' home
- 19 and the creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and
- 20 potential costs and revenue;
- 21 7. The feasibility of providing adult day care at the veterans' home and the creation of a
- 22 business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and revenue;
- 23 8. The feasibility of providing outpatient services at the veterans' home and the creation
- 24 of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and
- 25 revenue;
- 26 9. The feasibility of engaging in collaborative planning and work efforts with competing
- 27 senior living providers in areas surrounding the veterans' home and the feasibility of
- 28 contracting with a third party to operate the veterans' home; and
- 29 10. The final strategic plan submitted by the veterans' home third-party consultant.