

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
New and vacant FTE pool		\$49,702	\$153,205	\$202,907
Veterans' affairs	\$1,897,804	2,137,310	593,207	2,730,517
State Approving Agency	323,129	390,336		390,336
Grants - Transportation program	1,126,085	1,319,706		1,319,706
Transport vans	18,800	23,000		23,000
Service dogs		50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery		291,500		291,500
Veterans' postwar trust fund			500,000	500,000
Total all funds	\$3,365,818	\$4,261,554	\$1,246,412	\$5,507,966
Less estimated income	1,449,214	2,008,162	0	2,008,162
General fund	\$1,916,604	\$2,253,392	\$1,246,412	\$3,499,804
FTE	9.00	9.00	1.00	10.00

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

	Adds Funding for an FTE Veterans' Benefit Specialist Position ¹	Removes Funding for Commissioner Salary Equity Increase ²	Adds Funding for Salary Equity Increases ³	Adds Funding for Operating Expenses ⁴	Adds One-Time Funding for Homeless Veterans' Services ⁵	Transfers Funding from the General Fund to the Veterans' Postwar Trust Fund ⁶
New and vacant FTE pool	\$153,205					
Veterans' affairs	18,207	(\$25,000)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$500,000	
State Approving Agency						
Grants - Transportation program						
Transport vans						
Service dogs						
Veterans' Home Cemetery						
Veterans' postwar trust fund						\$500,000
Total all funds	\$171,412	(\$25,000)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$171,412	(\$25,000)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
FTE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Total House Changes
New and vacant FTE pool	\$153,205
Veterans' affairs	593,207
State Approving Agency	
Grants - Transportation program	
Transport vans	
Service dogs	
Veterans' Home Cemetery	
Veterans' postwar trust fund	500,000
Total all funds	\$1,246,412
Less estimated income	0
General fund	\$1,246,412
FTE	1.00

¹ Funding from the general fund is added for an FTE veterans' benefit specialist position, including \$6,270 for operating expenses. Funding for salaries and wages is decreased by \$170,228 and funding of \$153,205 is added to the new and vacant FTE pool for the position resulting in net savings of \$17,023.

² Funding added by the Senate from the general fund for a commissioner salary equity increase is removed.

³ Funding from the general fund is added for veterans' service officer salary equity increases.

⁴ Funding of \$50,000 is added for operating expenses, to provide a total increase of \$84,000 from the general fund. The Senate provided \$34,000 from the general fund for operating expenses increases.

⁵ One-time funding from the general fund is added for homeless veterans' services to prevent and eliminate veteran homelessness.

⁶ One-time funding from the general fund is transferred to the veterans' postwar trust fund, as included in Section 5 of the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2025 - Other Changes - House Action

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide a 2023-25 biennium federal funds appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the highly rural transportation grants program.
- Adds sections regarding the authority of the administrative committee on veterans' affairs and to transfer supervision and governance of the Veterans' Home and Department of Veterans' Affairs to the Governor.
- Adds a section to authorize the carryover of funding into the 2025-27 biennium for grants to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center, improving and expanding veterans' medical transportation, accrued leave of retiring staff, and a document scanning project. This will reduce general fund revenue available for the 2025-27 biennium by \$19,066.
- Adds a section to declare the \$200,000 in federal funds in Section 4 for the highly rural transportation grant program to be an emergency measure.