

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2003-05 executive budget (bills as introduced)	5.00	\$485,963	\$43,935	\$529,898
2003-05 legislative appropriations	5.00	480,798	43,494	524,292
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	(\$5,165)	(\$441)	(\$5,606)
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2001-03 appropriations	0.00	(\$15,758)	\$22,705	\$6,947

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in Senate Bill No. 2423, which allows agencies to provide salary increases of up to 1 percent on January 1, 2004, and up to 2 percent on January 1, 2005, to be funded in part from pooled savings accumulated from agency FTE position reductions.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Removed funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee salary increases		(\$4,167)	(\$338)	(\$4,505)
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$493 to \$488.70 per month per policy		(516)	(103)	(619)
Reduced funding for information technology. The amount reduced represents a reduction in information technology funding of approximately 5 percent.		(482)		(482)
Total	0.00	(\$5,165)	(\$441)	(\$5,606)

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation which included funding for 5 FTE positions, the same as the 2001-03 biennium.

Other Sections in Bill

Veterans' postwar trust fund - Section 2 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to report on the uses of the veterans' postwar trust fund to the Appropriations Committees of the 59th Legislative Assembly as part of the agency's budget presentation.

Performance audits - Section 3 directs the State Auditor's office 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.

Related Legislation

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. The subcommittee governing the Department of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the commissioner and shall create and implement a strategic plan for the Department of Veterans Affairs.