

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Budget No. 321
Senate Bill No. 2007, House Bill No. 1050**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2005-07 executive budget (bills as introduced)	6.00	\$677,337	\$0	\$677,337
2005-07 legislative appropriations	6.00	653,668		653,668
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	(\$23,669)	\$0	(\$23,669)
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2003-05 appropriations	1.00 ¹	\$172,870	(\$43,494)	\$129,376

¹The Department of Veterans Affairs employed 1 FTE position that was paid with nonappropriated funding from the veterans' postwar trust fund and was considered "off-budget." The 2005 Legislative Assembly appropriated funding from the general fund for the position; therefore, the position is now reflected as an FTE.

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 House Bill No. 1050.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Added funding for state employee salary increases		\$2,080		\$2,080
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$559.15 to \$553.95 per month per policy		(749)		(749)
Reduced funding for professional services		(5,000)		(5,000)
Removed funding for Administrative Committee travel expenses		(20,000)		(20,000)
Total	0.00	(\$23,669)	\$0	(\$23,669)

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation providing for 6 FTE positions, an increase of 1 FTE position from the 2003-05 biennium. The Department of Veterans Affairs employed 6 FTE positions during the 2003-05 biennium; however, because 1 position was paid with nonappropriated money from the veterans' postwar trust fund, it was considered "off-budget." The 2005 Legislative Assembly approved the executive recommendation to change the funding source for the position from the veterans' postwar trust fund to the general fund and to reflect the position as a full-time equivalent.

Other Sections in Bill

Veterans' postwar trust fund - Initiated constitutional measure No. 4, approved by the voters in the November 1996 general election, created a new section to Article X of the North Dakota Constitution providing for a veterans' postwar trust fund to be a permanent trust fund of the state of North Dakota. The investments of the fund are to be utilized for programs which must be of benefit and service to veterans or their dependents. The Legislative Assembly provided a general fund appropriation for salaries and wages of 1 FTE position and various operating costs from the veterans' postwar trust fund. An analysis of the veterans' postwar trust fund is included in the **Trust Fund Analyses** section of this report.

Related Legislation

Veterans' aid loan program fees - Senate Bill No. 2129 authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to collect reasonable fees in the administration of the veterans' aid loan program.