

**Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Budget No. 321  
Senate Bill No. 2007, House Bill No. 1057**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2009-11 executive budget (bills as introduced)	7.00	\$1,006,054	\$0	\$1,006,054
<b>2009-11 legislative appropriations</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>1,031,487</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1,031,487</b>
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	\$25,433	\$0	\$25,433
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2007-09 appropriations	0.00	\$153,209	\$0	\$153,209

**ONGOING AND ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

	<b>Ongoing General Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>One-Time General Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>Total General Fund Appropriation</b>
2007-09 legislative appropriations	\$818,672	\$59,606	\$878,278
<b>2009-11 legislative appropriations</b>	<b>1,031,487</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,031,487</b>
2009-11 legislative increase (decrease) to 2007-09 appropriations	\$212,815	(\$59,606)	\$153,209
Percentage increase (decrease) to 2007-09 appropriations	26.0%	(100.0%)	17.4%
2009-11 legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	\$25,433	\$0	\$25,433
Percentage increase (decrease) to executive budget	2.5%	N/A	2.5%

**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. 1015.

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
The legislative action:				
Removed funding added in the executive budget for state employee salary equity adjustments		(\$14,567)		(\$14,567)
Added funding for grants to counties to provide portable personal computers to county veterans' service officers		20,000		20,000
Added funding for Department of Veterans' Affairs accreditation training for all county veterans' service officers (House Bill No. 1057)		20,000		20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$25,433</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,433</b>

### **FTE Changes**

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation which included funding for 7 FTE positions, the same as the 2007-09 biennium.

### **Related Legislation**

**County veterans' service officers accreditation** - House Bill No. 1057 requires county veterans' service officers to maintain accreditation and provides \$20,000 from the general fund for accreditation training. The bill provides the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs may use up to two of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' existing FTE positions as training officers for the 2009-11 biennium. The Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs must provide a report regarding the number of county veterans' service officers accredited, the agency or organization through which each officer has been accredited, and an accountability report with respect to the use of the funds for the training program offered through the Department of Veterans' Affairs to county veterans' service officers to the Legislative Council by December 1, 2009. The commissioner must also present followup reports to the Legislative Council by July 1, 2010, and December 1, 2010. The board of county commissioners of each county must report to the Legislative Council on the status of the county's compliance with the accreditation requirement by December 1, 2010.

**Special plates for surviving family members** - House Bill No. 1414 provides for the issuance of special plates for surviving family members of fallen members of the military.

**Definition of foreign service, period of service, and payment of adjusted compensation** - House Bill No. 1482 relates to the definition of foreign service, period of service, and payment of adjusted compensation.

**Veterans' preference** - House Bill No. 1510 relates to the employer's responsibility regarding veterans' preference.

**Resident tuition for veterans** - Senate Bill No. 2082 provides for the eligibility of veterans for resident tuition at state institutions of higher education.

**Property tax exemption for disabled veterans** - Senate Bill No. 2201 provides \$3 million from the general fund to the Tax Commissioner for reimbursing counties for property tax exemptions for disabled veterans.