

**Veterans' Home
Budget No. 313
Senate Bill No. 2007**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 legislative appropriation	114.79	\$6,713,108	\$24,939,682	\$31,652,790
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>114.79</u>	<u>6,218,399</u>	<u>23,287,847</u>	<u>29,506,246</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	0.00	\$494,709	\$1,651,835	\$2,146,544

Item Description

Full-time equivalent changes - The Legislative Assembly approved 114.79 FTE positions for the Veterans' Home for the 2025-27 biennium, the same as the 2023-25 biennium.

New and vacant FTE pool - The Legislative Assembly transferred \$1,218,463 for estimated savings from new and vacant FTE positions from the salaries and wages line item to the new and vacant FTE pool line item and reduced the amount to \$852,924 for estimated savings from new and vacant FTE positions.

Employee reclassifications and salary adjustments - In Senate Bill No. 2007, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1.24 million from the Soldiers' Home Fund for nursing salary equity increases (\$750,000), nursing overtime (\$200,000), contract nursing costs (\$275,000) and reclassification of an FTE licensed practical nurse position to an FTE registered nurse position (\$15,000).

One-time funding - In Senate Bill No. 2007, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$587,050 of one-time funding from other funds to the Veterans' Home for the 2025-27 biennium, including:

	Other Funds
Building maintenance, including door openers replacement (\$80,000), interior repainting (\$50,000), and carpet replacement (\$260,000) ¹	\$390,000
Resident garages and storage units ²	175,000
Equipment, including a commercial floor cleaning machine (\$5,600) and equipment under \$10,000 ¹	22,050
Total	\$587,050

¹Funding for these items is from the Soldiers' Home Fund.
²Funding for the resident garages and storage units is from the Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund.

Status/Result

No changes to FTE positions were made by the 2025 Legislative Assembly.

Through March 2026, the Veterans' Home had not received any funding from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to fill vacant FTE positions. Through January 2026, the department had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$332,171, but has spent \$573,535 on incentive and location pay, extra temporary salary funding, and other salary costs. The number of vacancies in the agency has ranged from 6.9 to 8.6 with an average monthly vacancy rate of 7.6 FTE positions.

In July 2025, a \$2 per hour salary equity increase was provided to all nursing staff. The Veterans' Home has reclassified the FTE licensed practical nurse position to an FTE registered nurse position and anticipates spending all funding for nursing salary equity increases, nursing overtime, and contract nursing costs during the 2025-27 biennium.

The following is a summary of the status of the Veterans' Home one-time funding items:

Building maintenance	The building maintenance projects are currently in the procurement process. Completion dates and estimated costs are not yet known.
Resident garages and storage units	The project, consisting of 14 garages and 8 storage units for residents was completed in September 2025 at a total cost of \$909,340. Of this amount, \$748,870 was spent during the 2023-25 biennium and \$160,470 was spent during the 2025-27 biennium.
Equipment	Through March 2026, \$3,600 has been spent to acquire a commercial floor machine. The agency is working with vendors to acquire additional equipment, including motorized linen carts and dishwashing machines. The agency anticipates fully expending the funding during the 2025-27 biennium.

State Facility Maintenance Fund - In House Bill No. 1015 (2025), the Legislative Assembly created the State Facility Maintenance Fund, transferred \$34 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund to the new fund, and provided an appropriation from the fund for maintenance projects at state-owned facilities.

Line item transfer authority - In Senate Bill No. 2007, the Legislative Assembly authorized the transfer of up to \$600,000 from special funds from the salaries and wages line item to the operating expenses line item during the 2023-25 biennium. Section 7 of the bill declared the line item transfer an emergency measure.

Basic care and skilled care census - The Veterans' Home has a total of 150 beds, consisting of 98 basic care beds and 52 skilled care beds.

The Office of Management and Budget allocated \$567,000 from the State Facility Maintenance Fund to the Veterans' Home for the repair of heat pump compressors and water-to-air heat pumps and for other energy management projects. Through March 2026, \$60,000 has been spent on heat pump compressor repairs and the agency anticipates fully expending the funding during the 2025-27 biennium.

The Veterans' Home transferred the entire \$600,000 during the 2023-25 biennium from the salaries and wages line item to the operating expenses line item for contract nursing costs.

As of March 2026, the census was 57 residents in basic care and 50 residents in skilled care. Skilled care has since reached capacity of 52 residents, with a waiting list of approximately 10.