

MEMORANDUM



JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Joint Budget Committee Members
FROM Tom Dermody, JBC Staff (303-866-4963)
DATE April 27, 2017
SUBJECT Impact of Senate Amendment #26 (J.044) – Increase to County Veterans Service Officer Payments

During figure setting for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' FY 2017-18 budget, the Committee approved an appropriation of \$657,280 General Fund (continuation-level funding) for the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Payments line item. This appropriation funds a reimbursement program that assists all Colorado counties with the personal services and operating costs associated with their veterans services offices. Pursuant to Section 28-5-707 (1)(a), C.R.S., the Department has the authority to set the reimbursement rate for the assistance payments. Based on the standard assumption of a full-time FTE working 2,080 hours per year, the hourly rate for full-time and part-time CVSO assistance payments is \$8.00. Counties are not required to provide matching funds to qualify for state assistance payments; however, counties must provide documentation of the amount they have budgeted for their veterans service offices.

Senate Amendment #26 (J.044) to the FY 2017-18 Long Bill increases by \$300,000 General Fund the appropriation to the County Veterans Service Officer Payments line item. This results in a total appropriation of \$957,280 General Fund for the line item. The increased appropriation would allow for the hourly rate for full-time and part-time CVSO assistance payments to be set to \$11.65, assuming the Department uses its current methodology. This higher reimbursement rate would be applied to all assistance payments to all counties.

FY 2017-18 Long Bill Appropriation for County Veterans Service Officer Payments		
	Introduced	S26/J.044
General Fund	\$657,280	\$957,280
Reimbursement Rate (hourly)	\$8.00	\$11.65