



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 12/5/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1456

Sponsors

***Representative Lontine
Senator Crowder***

Short Title

***Sale of State Land for Fort
Logan National Cemetery***

Research Analyst

Matt Becker (x4785)

Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor and took effect on June 1, 2016.

Summary

The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to sell up to 15 acres of vacant land around the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at fair market value for purpose of expanding the Fort Logan National Cemetery.

The sale proceeds will be credited to the Fort Logan National Cemetery Fund, which is created by the bill. The sale proceeds will later be appropriated from the cemetery fund to the Central Fund for Veterans Community Living Centers, subject to certain limitations, and may be used for one-time costs at Veterans Community Living Centers. At least 60 days prior to such expenditure, DHS must report its recommended use of the sale proceeds to the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committees, the Capital Development Committee, and the Joint Budget Committee.

Background

Fort Logan was originally established as a United States Army fort in 1887. Fort Logan was closed in May 1946, with the VA utilizing the hospital building until 1951. Fort Logan National Cemetery was created in 1949 on 214 acres on the western edge of the fort property.

A portion of the fort property (308 acres) was deeded to the state of Colorado in 1960 to establish a state hospital, now known as the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan

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(CMHIFL). CMHIFL is one of two state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals. The other is in Pueblo. The hospital is managed by the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) within DHS. The OBH is responsible for policy development, service provision and coordination, program monitoring and evaluation, and administrative oversight for the state's behavioral health system.

House Action

House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (May 2, 2016). Representatives from DHS, the National Cemetery Administration, and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado testified in support of the bill. A representative from the State Land Board (SLB) responded to committee questions. The committee adopted amendment L.001, which specified that DHS should not sell the land if the SLB does not transfer all of its interests in the land to DHS. The bill was referred to the House Finance Committee, as amended.

House Finance Committee (May 4, 2016). The bill was referred to the House Appropriations Committee with no additional amendments.

House Appropriations Committee (May 5, 2016). The bill was referred to the House Committee of the Whole with no additional amendments.

House second reading (May 5, 2016). The House passed the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee report. The House passed the bill on second reading with no additional amendments.

House third reading (May 6, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no additional amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Finance Committee (May 9, 2016). Representatives from the VA, the United Veterans Committee, and DHS testified in support of the bill. The bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee (May 9, 2016). The bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (May 9, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading.

Senate third reading (May 10, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading.