

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING AN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY FOR VETERANS.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Jahn and Crowder
Representative Lawrence

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Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 02/08/18.

XXX	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill*
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

The State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee Report (02/12/18) includes amendments to the bill, however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the committee amendments do not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

*The Legislative Council Staff fiscal note includes a technical note indicating that if the General Assembly appropriates \$278,354 for the program, the Department is authorized to spend only \$13,918 (five percent of the total) for administration, although it will require approximately \$33,000 in FY 2018-19 to create and administer the grant program. JBC staff concurs with the Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note estimate of resources required to administer the program. However, in light of the current language in the bill restricting the use of funds for administration, JBC staff assumes that the appropriation is based on an assumption that the Department will require 0.2 FTE (rather than 0.4 FTE).

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
J.001	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001 Staff has prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) to add a provision appropriating a total of \$278,354 General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for FY 2018-19. This provision also states that the appropriation is based on the assumption that the Department will require an additional 0.2 FTE.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2018-19 based on the March 2018 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. The budget package leaves approximately \$40.8 million General Fund unallocated. Thus, the General Assembly could appropriate up to \$38.3 million General Fund to fund 2018 legislation and maintain a 6.5 percent General Fund reserve. This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$278,354 for FY 2018-19, reducing the excess General Fund reserve by \$296,447.

Technical Issues

1. The bill creates the new Veterans Outdoor Terrain Restoration and Recreation Mental Health Grant Program Cash Fund, which would consist of General Fund appropriated by the General Assembly for the Veterans Outdoor Terrain Restoration and Recreation Mental Health Grant Program and any gifts, grants, and donations that are received by the Department for the program. Money in the Fund is subject to annual appropriation to the Department. **Is it necessary to appropriate General Fund into a new cash fund, rather than appropriating General Fund directly to the Department for the new program?** Is it likely that any gifts, grants, and donations will be received for this program?
2. As outlined in the Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note dated February 8, 2018, the bill specifies that no more than five percent of the amount appropriated to the cash fund may be used for administrative expenses. If the General Assembly appropriates \$278,354 for the program, the Department is authorized to spend \$13,918 (five percent of the total); however, the Department will require approximately \$33,000 in FY 2018-19 to create and administer the grant program, excluding centrally appropriated costs.