

# MEMORANDUM



## JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Joint Budget Committee  
FROM Megan Davisson, JBC Staff  
DATE March 20, 2017  
SUBJECT H.B. 16-1112 Additional Information

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House Bill 16-1112 creates the Training Veterans to Train Their Own Service Dogs Pilot Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The program will identify up to ten eligible veterans to pair with dogs selected by qualified trainers. Program participants will foster, train, and ultimately use the dogs as their own service or companion animals. Participants who graduate from the program with a trained dog will be eligible, if willing, to identify, foster, and train a subsequent dog for another eligible veteran who is unable to complete one or more parts of the process due to physical limitations.

The DHS is required to initiate a competitive request for proposals (RFP) to select two in-state nonprofit agencies that represent different counties with which to contract for the implementation and operation of the program. The RFP must be released no later than August 1, 2016; proposals must be received no later than October 1, 2016; and the DHS must select a nonprofit on or before November 1, 2016. The bill identifies the criteria the DHS must use in selecting the two nonprofit agencies, and the minimum requirements of the agencies to operate the program. The DHS is also required to annually report program outcomes and any program evaluation conducted to select committees of the General Assembly.

The bill creates the Training Veterans to Train Their Own Service Dogs Pilot Program Cash Fund. Money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the DHS to fund and implement the pilot program operated by the nonprofit. The DHS is permitted to use up to three percent of the money appropriated or transferred in a fiscal year for administrative expenses. The pilot program is repealed on September 1, 2026.