

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1025 - Funding Summary

	Base Budget	Final Legislative Action	Comparison to Base Budget
Department of Veterans' Affairs			
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$1,789,456	\$287,506
State approving agency	292,024	313,026	21,002
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	1,126,085	(93,915)
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	
Service dogs	50,000		(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$3,538,867	\$456,093
Less estimated income	1,512,150	1,831,447	319,297
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$1,707,420	\$136,796
FTE	8.00	9.00	1.00
Bill total			
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$3,538,867	\$456,093
Less estimated income	1,512,150	1,831,447	319,297
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$1,707,420	\$136,796
FTE	8.00	9.00	1.00

House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$549,094	\$3,631,868
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
FTE	8.00	1.00	9.00

Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of House Changes

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases²	Adds Funding to Convert a Temporary Position to an FTE Position³	Adjusts Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program⁴	Adjusts Base Level Funding⁵	Removes Funding for the PTSD Service Dog Program⁶
Veterans' affairs	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,607	
State approving agency	1,687	16,594			2,373	
Grants - Transportation program				(93,915)		
Transport vans						
Service dogs						(\$50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery						
Total all funds	\$11,810	\$117,887	\$99,966	(\$43,915)	\$5,980	(\$50,000)
Less estimated income	1,687	16,594	0	(93,915)	2,247	0
General fund	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,733	(\$50,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project ²	Adds One-Time Funding for Accrued Leave of Retiring Staff ⁸	Adds One-Time Funding to Purchase a Transport Van ⁹	Adds One-Time Funding for the Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program ¹⁰	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$78,000	\$19,066			\$362,055
State approving agency					20,654
Grants - Transportation program					(93,915)
Transport vans			\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs					(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery				\$291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$291,500	\$549,094
Less estimated income	0	0	0	291,500	218,113
General fund	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$0	\$330,981
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

¹ Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

² The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
Health insurance increase	<u>30,696</u>	<u>6,140</u>	<u>36,836</u>
Total	\$101,293	\$16,594	\$117,887

³ Funding of \$99,966 is added from the general fund to convert a temporary position to a 1.00 FTE veterans benefit specialist position.

⁴ Funding is adjusted for the highly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$1,126,085 from federal funds.

⁵ Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Reduces funding for operating expenses	(\$6)	(\$126)	(\$132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses to provide a total of \$312,678 from federal funds	<u>0</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>937</u>
Total	\$3,733	\$2,247	\$5,980

⁶ Funding from the general fund is removed for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program to reduce the ongoing appropriation from \$50,000 to \$0. A section is added to the bill to authorize the department an exemption to continue funding for the program appropriated during the 2019-21 and 2021-23 bienniums into the 2023-25 biennium.

⁷ One-time funding of \$78,000 is added from the general fund for a document scanning project to scan paper copies of veteran documents into digital copies.

⁸ One-time funding of \$19,066 is added from the general fund for accrued leave of retiring staff.

⁹ One-time funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans during the 2023-25 biennium.

¹⁰ One-time funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program, of which \$265,000 is from federal funds and \$26,500 is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.
- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$1,864,005	(\$74,549)	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	312,678	348	313,026
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	1,126,085		1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000			
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500		291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$3,631,868	(\$93,001)	\$3,538,867
Less estimated income	1,512,150	1,730,263	101,184	1,831,447
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$1,901,605	(\$194,185)	\$1,707,420
FTE	8.00	9.00	0.00	9.00

Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases¹	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool²	Adjusts One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project³	Removes One-Time Funding for a Transport Van⁴	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	\$22,836		(\$74,549)
State approving agency	3,372	(3,024)			348
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home cemetery					
Total all funds	\$26,370	(\$123,407)	\$22,836	(\$18,800)	(\$93,001)
Less estimated income	3,372	(3,024)	100,836	0	101,184
General fund	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	(\$78,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$194,185)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$23,688	\$3,510	\$27,198
Health insurance increase	(690)	(138)	(828)
Total	\$22,998	\$3,372	\$26,370

The House provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
New FTE positions	(\$99,966)	\$0	(\$99,966)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(20,417)</u>	<u>(3,024)</u>	<u>(23,441)</u>
Total	(\$120,383)	(\$3,024)	(\$123,407)

³ One-time funding for a document scanning project is adjusted by removing \$78,000 from the general fund approved by the House and adding \$100,836 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

⁴ One-time funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 of ongoing funding from the general fund. The House provided \$37,600 from the general fund, of which \$18,800 was ongoing funding and \$18,800 was one-time funding, for the purchase of two transport vans. The Senate amendments provide the department may use funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to purchase an additional transport van.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to identify \$100,836 in the estimated income line item in Section 1 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for a document scanning project.
- Amends a section that provides an exemption to continue \$147,000 appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to also be used for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van.

House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Conference Committee Action

The House acceded to the Senate amendments.