

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 222

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING TITLE 65, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 7, TITLE 65, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE, TO CREATE THE IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND, TO PROVIDE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND, TO CREATE THE IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION INCOME FUND, TO PROVIDE A COMMITTEE TO PREPARE AND RECOMMEND AN ALLOCATION PLAN AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN ANNUAL ALLOCATION PLAN.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE -- LEGISLATIVE INTENT. This act shall be known as the "Idaho Veterans Recognition Act" and shall establish a program to recognize the service of Idaho veterans. It is the intent of the Legislature that interest and earnings from moneys in the Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund be transferred annually to the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund, and that moneys in the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund be used to benefit veterans in Idaho, with priority given to activities that support disabled veterans.

SECTION 2. That Title 65, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chapter 7, Title 65, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 7

IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION ACT

65-701. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a program to recognize the service of Idaho veterans. This chapter is intended to support programs or organizations that serve veterans.

65-702. IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Idaho veterans recognition fund." The state treasurer is hereby granted the authority to invest the assets of the fund in any investment instruments authorized by the standards of the Idaho uniform prudent investor act, chapter 5, title 68, Idaho Code.

(2) The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated from excess earnings from funds maintained by the division of veterans services and shall maintain its interest and investment earnings generated by such moneys in the fund.

(3) Money in the fund shall be used solely to benefit veterans in Idaho, with priority given to activities that serve disabled veterans.

65-703. DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND. (1) On the first business day of each July, or as soon thereafter as possible, the administrator of the division of veterans services, as di-

1 rected by the Idaho veterans recognition committee, shall request the state  
2 controller to make a transfer to the Idaho veterans recognition income fund.

3 (2) The amount of the transfer shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the  
4 Idaho veterans recognition fund's average monthly fair market value for the  
5 first twelve (12) months of the preceding twenty-four (24) months. Further,  
6 the distribution shall not exceed the Idaho veterans recognition fund's fair  
7 market value on the first business day in July.

8 65-704. IDAHO VETERANS RECOGNITION INCOME FUND. (1) There is hereby  
9 created in the state treasury the "Idaho veterans recognition income fund."

10 (2) The fund shall consist of moneys transferred from the Idaho veter-  
11 ans recognition fund.

12 (3) The fund shall be used solely to benefit veterans in Idaho, with  
13 priority given to activities that serve disabled veterans.

14 (4) Moneys in the Idaho veterans recognition income fund are subject to  
15 appropriation by the legislature.

16 (5) Any unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund on June 30 of each  
17 year shall be transferred back to the Idaho veterans recognition fund.

18 65-705. COMMITTEE TO PREPARE AND RECOMMEND ALLOCATION PLAN. (1) A  
19 committee consisting of seven (7) members, herein referred to as the Idaho  
20 veterans recognition committee, shall annually prepare a recommendation to  
21 the governor and the legislature on how to spend the available funds in the  
22 Idaho veterans recognition income fund. Committee members shall include  
23 the five members of the Idaho veterans affairs commission and two additional  
24 members to be appointed by the governor. At least one (1) of the members  
25 shall have served in a recent war or conflict engaged in by the government of  
26 the United States and at least one (1) member shall be a disabled veteran.  
27 For purposes of the appointment to the committee, a disabled veteran shall  
28 have a current service-connected disability of thirty percent (30%) or more.

29 (2) The committee shall:

30 (a) Maintain a familiarity with the needs of veterans returning from  
31 armed service;

32 (b) Establish priorities for use of moneys in the Idaho veterans recog-  
33 nition income fund; and

34 (c) Make a recommendation each year to the governor and legislature on  
35 use of moneys in the Idaho veterans recognition income fund in the form  
36 of an annual allocation plan.

37 65-706. ANNUAL ALLOCATION PLAN. (1) The annual allocation plan shall  
38 include, at a minimum:

39 (a) A discussion of the previous year's budget, expenditure amounts,  
40 use of funds and program outcomes;

41 (b) A progress update for current year activities;

42 (c) A recommendation for the following year, including expected bud-  
43 get, proposed use of funds and timeline of expenditures; and

44 (d) Identification of additional needs of Idaho veterans that re-  
45 sources within the fund are inadequate to address.

46 (2) In preparation of the plan, the committee shall solicit public com-  
47 ment in a public meeting.

1           (3) The committee shall submit the annual allocation plan to the admin-  
2     istrator of the division of veterans services by August 1, or as soon there-  
3     after as possible, each year.

4           (4) In addition to the requirements of chapter 35, title 67, Idaho Code,  
5     the division of veterans services shall include the annual allocation plan  
6     in its annual budget request.