

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1007
(Appropriations Committee)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' home; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a report.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the veterans' home for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the veterans' home, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$19,209,879	\$849,837	\$20,059,716
Operating expenses	5,539,333	538,842	6,078,175
Capital assets	407,271	2,437,811	2,845,082
Total all funds	\$25,156,483	\$3,826,490	\$28,982,973
Less estimated income	<u>19,375,840</u>	<u>3,597,134</u>	<u>22,972,974</u>
Total general fund	\$5,780,643	\$229,356	\$6,009,999
Full-time equivalent positions	114.79	0.00	114.79

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Indoor parking and storage	\$0	\$750,000
Parking lot and road repairs	0	1,100,000
Equipment	16,700	125,750
Thermostat replacements	131,500	478,930
Resident absences	25,000	0
Memorial garden project	200,000	0
COVID-19 pandemic costs	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total all funds	\$1,673,200	\$2,454,680
Less estimated income	<u>1,648,200</u>	<u>2,454,680</u>
Total general fund	\$25,000	\$0

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The veterans' home shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. ESTIMATED INCOME - SOLDIERS' HOME FUND - ADMINISTRATOR HOUSING STIPEND. The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$48,000 from the soldiers' home fund for the purpose of providing a \$2,000 monthly housing stipend to the veterans' home administrator for housing costs off the veterans' home campus.

SECTION 4. ESTIMATED INCOME - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - THERMOSTAT REPLACEMENTS. The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the

sum of \$478,930 from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for the purpose of a thermostat and air handling unit replacement project.

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - VETERANS' HOME GOVERNANCE.

During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying current and future governance needs of the veterans' home. The study must include a review of the report provided in section 6 of this Act. The study must consider the current duties and responsibilities of the administrative committee on veterans' affairs, the veterans' home governing board, and the veterans' home administrator and any organizational changes necessary to provide services for veterans and veterans' spouses, increase resident census at the veterans' home, accomplish goals included in the veterans' home strategic plan, and ensure the long-term viability of the veterans' home. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 6. VETERANS' HOME STRATEGIC PLAN - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The veterans' home shall report to the legislative management by January 1, 2024, regarding the status of implementing recommendations included in the veterans' home strategic plan as provided for in section 1 of chapter 7 of the 2019 Session Laws. The veterans' home shall forward a copy of the report to the governor and each United States senator and congressman representing North Dakota. The veterans' home shall provide an updated report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, the governor, and each United States senator and congressman representing North Dakota during the 2025 legislative session. The report must include information on the status and progress of:

1. The veterans' home current and future planned marketing initiative outcomes, including:
 - a. Marketing efforts to community-based outpatient clinics throughout the state and how the veterans' home can increase community-based services to veterans statewide; and
 - b. How the agency will increase statewide awareness of the veterans' home, including promoting services available to veterans and veterans' spouses;
2. Implementation of minimum data set and documentation audit recommendations to increase operational efficiencies, census, and staffing;
3. The veterans' home and each United States senator and congressman representing North Dakota collaborating to negotiate with the United States department of veterans affairs on the forgiveness of approximately \$15,700,000 of federal funding used in the construction of the veterans' home and the other options regarding federal funding concerns;
4. Evaluating options to adjust basic care and skilled care reimbursement rates to more adequately compensate for services provided to veterans and veterans' spouses;
5. The feasibility of providing collaborative hospice care at the veterans' home and the creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and revenue;
6. The feasibility of providing assisted and independent living care at the veterans' home and the creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and revenue;
7. The feasibility of providing adult day care at the veterans' home and the creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and revenue;
8. The feasibility of providing outpatient services at the veterans' home and the creation of a business plan including advantages, disadvantages, and potential costs and revenue;
9. The feasibility of engaging in collaborative planning and work efforts with competing senior living providers in areas surrounding the veterans' home and the feasibility of contracting with a third party to operate the veterans' home; and

10. The final strategic plan submitted by the veterans' home third-party consultant.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1007.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State