

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 771

FINAL READING

Introduced by Sanders, 45; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Holdcroft, 36;
Linehan, 39; Lippincott, 34; Brewer, 43.

Read first time January 18, 2023

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Veterans' Affairs; to
2 amend section 85-2701, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022,
3 and section 80-401, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023; to change
4 provisions relating to the Veterans' Aid Income Fund; to provide for
5 a postsecondary institution grant program under the Veteran and
6 Active Duty Supportive Postsecondary Institution Act; to harmonize
7 provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an
8 emergency.
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 80-401, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
2 amended to read:

3 80-401 (1) There is hereby established a fund to be known as the
4 Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund. The Nebraska Investment Council is directed
5 to purchase bonds or notes issued by the government of the United States
6 or the State of Nebraska, or any county, school district, or municipality
7 therein, with a face value of twelve million dollars, as of August 1,
8 1984, to carry out sections 80-401 to 80-405 and to place them in the
9 custody and control of the State Treasurer of the State of Nebraska under
10 the same conditions as other state money.

11 (2) Such fund shall be managed as follows: (a) When necessary to pay
12 a premium for bonds for such fund, the amount of the premium shall be
13 amortized over the term of the bonds from the interest received on such
14 bonds; and (b) when bonds for such fund are purchased at a discount, the
15 amount of the discount shall be used to purchase additional bonds, it
16 being contemplated that the face amount of the bonds in such fund may in
17 this manner aggregate in excess of twelve million dollars at some future
18 time. Transfers may be made from the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to the
19 Veteran Cemetery Construction Fund at the direction of the Legislature
20 until July 30, 2024. The State Treasurer shall transfer four million
21 dollars from the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to the Veteran Cemetery
22 Construction Fund on July 15, 2023. The State Treasurer shall transfer
23 four million dollars from the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to the Veteran
24 Cemetery Construction Fund on July 15, 2024.

25 (3) The interest on the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund, except so much
26 as may be required for amortization of premium bond purchases as
27 authorized in this section and so much as may be required to pay a pro
28 rata share of the budget appropriated for the Nebraska Investment Council
29 pursuant to section 72-1249.02, shall be paid to the Veterans' Aid Income
30 Fund, which fund is hereby created. The Veterans' Aid Income Fund, when
31 appropriated by the Legislature, shall be available to the Director of

1 Veterans' Affairs for aid to needy veterans as authorized by law and for
2 purposes of section 3 of this act.

3 (4) The Nebraska Investment Council shall manage the Nebraska
4 Veterans' Aid Fund, with investment and reinvestment to be made in the
5 same type securities authorized for investment of funds by the Nebraska
6 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

7 (5) The director shall advise the Nebraska Investment Council when
8 amounts in the Veterans' Aid Income Fund are not immediately required
9 pursuant to this section for aid to needy veterans. The state investment
10 officer shall invest such amounts available from the Veterans' Aid Income
11 Fund in the same manner as investments of the Nebraska Veterans' Aid
12 Fund, and the interest thereon shall also become a part of the Veterans'
13 Aid Income Fund.

14 Sec. 2. Section 85-2701, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2022, is amended to read:

16 85-2701 Sections 85-2701 to 85-2705 and section 3 of this act shall
17 be known and may be cited as the Veteran and Active Duty Supportive
18 Postsecondary Institution Act.

19 Sec. 3. (1) The department shall implement and develop a pilot
20 program to provide a grant to any qualifying postsecondary institution to
21 assist the United States Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency with
22 accounting for United States servicemembers and civilians missing from
23 designated past conflicts as such conflicts are determined by such
24 federal agency. The department shall utilize available funding from the
25 Veterans' Aid Income Fund to provide such grants and pay the costs of
26 administering the pilot program.

27 (2) In order to be a qualifying postsecondary institution, the
28 institution shall have (a) a partnership or service agreement with the
29 United States Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to establish or expand
30 undergraduate and graduate student internships to provide such assistance
31 and (b) first received the Veteran and Active Duty Supportive designation

1 under section 85-2703.

2 (3) On or before November 1, 2025, the director shall electronically
3 submit a report to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
4 Committee of the Legislature regarding the pilot program.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two hundred
6 thousand dollars from the Veterans' Aid Income Fund for FY2024-25 to the
7 department for purposes of this section.

8 Sec. 4. Original section 85-2701, Revised Statutes Cumulative
9 Supplement, 2022, and section 80-401, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023,
10 are repealed.

11 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
12 passed and approved according to law.