

**FY 2023-24: MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Summary: As Passed by the Senate**  
**Senate Bill 197 (S-3)**



**Analyst: Michael Cossen**

IDG/IDT	FY 2022-23 YTD as of 2/8/23	FY 2023-24 Executive	FY 2023-24 House	FY 2023-24 Senate	FY 2023-24 Conference	Difference: Senate From FY 2022-23 YTD	
						Amount	%
	\$101,800	\$101,800	\$101,800	\$101,800	\$	\$0	0.0
<b>Federal</b>	200,364,300	134,445,400	134,445,400	134,445,400		(65,918,900)	(32.9)
<b>Local</b>	0	0	0	0		0	--
<b>Private</b>	640,000	100,000	100,000	100,000		(540,000)	(84.4)
<b>Restricted</b>	18,794,900	14,213,400	14,213,400	14,213,400		(4,581,500)	(24.4)
<b>GF/GP</b>	142,465,000	91,543,500	96,393,500	91,293,500		(51,171,500)	(35.9)
<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$362,366,000</b>	<b>\$240,404,100</b>	<b>\$245,254,100</b>	<b>\$240,154,100</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(\$122,211,900)</b>	<b>(33.7)</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	1,063.5	1,083.5	1,058.0	1,081.5		18.0	1.7

Notes: (1) FY 2022-23 year-to-date figures include mid-year budget adjustments through February 8, 2023. (2) Appropriation figures for all years include all proposed appropriation amounts, including amounts designated as "one-time."

**Overview**

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) provides for the operations of the Michigan National Guard in support of military and security needs of the state and federal government. The department, through the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, oversees state programs for veterans, grants to veterans service organizations, the County Veteran Service Fund, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. The department also houses the independent Michigan Veterans Facility Authority, which manages and operates the state's three veterans homes.

**Major Budget Changes from FY 2022-23 YTD Appropriations**

		FY 2022-23 Year-to-Date (as of 2/8/23)	FY 2023-24 Senate Change
<b>1. Military Facilities Services Inflation Adjustment</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<u>Executive</u> provides \$180,000 Gross (\$58,300 GF/GP) to align with increased contractual costs for various property management services at departmental military facilities. Services include janitorial, trash, snow removal, lawn, and others. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	Federal	NA	121,700
	GF/GP	NA	\$58,300
<b>2. Federal NG Bureau Unallowable Costs Backfill</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$569,200</b>
<u>Executive</u> provides \$569,200 GF/GP to cover costs for military leave and firefighter's compensatory time that are no longer eligible for federal reimbursement under the federal National Guard Bureau's cooperative agreement. Funding by line item would be as follows:	GF/GP	NA	\$569,200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$58,300 for Headquarters and Armories</li> <li>\$215,900 for Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy</li> <li>\$295,000 for Military Training Sites and Support Facilities.</li> </ul> <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.			

		FY 2022-23 Year-to-Date (as of 2/8/23)	FY 2023-24 Senate Change
<b>Major Budget Changes from FY 2022-23 YTD Appropriations</b>			
<b>3. FTE Authorization Transfer from MVFA</b>	FTE	NA	0.0
<u>Executive</u> transfers authorization for 60.5 FTE positions from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans to 6 line items. Excess authorization is available due to the new Grand Rapids facility being smaller with less personnel needs than the larger setting of the former home. No filled positions would be transferred. FTE authorizations would be allocated to the following line items:	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headquarters and Armories – 20.5</li> <li>• Military Training Sites and Support Facilities – 35.0</li> <li>• National Guard Tuition Assistance Fund – 0.5</li> <li>• County Veteran Service Grants – 2.0</li> <li>• Veterans Service Grants – 2.0</li> <li>• Veterans Cemetery – 0.5.</li> </ul>	Federal	NA	0
<u>House</u> reduces authorization for 60.5 FTE positions from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and transfers authorization for 36.0 FTE authorizations to the following 5 line items for an overall reduction of 24.5 FTE positions for the department.	GF/GP	NA	\$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headquarters and Armories – 17.0</li> <li>• Military Training Sites and Support Facilities – 16.0</li> <li>• National Guard Tuition Assistance Fund – 0.5</li> <li>• County Veteran Service Grants – 2.0</li> <li>• Veterans Cemetery – 0.5.</li> </ul>			
<u>Senate</u> concurs with Executive.			
<b>4. Military Retirement</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$1,457,000</b>	<b>(\$106,000)</b>
<u>Executive</u> reduces \$106,000 GF/GP for the Military Retirement System to align funding with anticipated retirement obligations based on annual actuarial valuation of military retirement pension benefits. <u>House</u> concurs. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	GF/GP	\$1,457,000	(\$106,000)
<b>5. Selfridge Facilities Personnel Increase</b>	FTE	NA	13.0
<u>Executive</u> provides \$1.5 million Gross (\$269,000 GF/GP) and authorization for 13.0 FTE positions for facilities operations and maintenance staff at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The increased authorization would bring personnel counts to the full state personnel authorized amount under the National Guard Bureau's cooperative agreement. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$1,475,000</b>
	Federal	NA	1,206,000
	GF/GP	NA	\$269,000
<b>6. MVAA VA Claims Assistance Positions</b>	FTE	NA	3.0
<u>Executive</u> provides \$750,000 GF/GP and authorization for 5.0 FTE positions to hire additional veteran service officers to accommodate an increased demand for claims assistance because of the enactment of the federal Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act which extends VA health care and benefits to approximately 100,000 Michigan veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. <u>House</u> provides \$600,000 GF/GP and authorization for 4.0 FTE positions. <u>Senate</u> provides \$500,000 GF/GP and authorization for 3.0 FTE positions.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
	GF/GP	NA	\$500,000
<b>7. MVAA Veterans Suicide Prevention</b>	FTE	0.0	2.0
<u>Executive</u> provides \$1.2 million GF/GP and authorization for 2.0 FTE positions to continue an outreach campaign targeting current and former servicemembers and their families on reducing suicide incidents. The campaign received \$1.2 million GF/GP in one-time funding in FY 2022-23 and is part of the Governor's Challenge effort, in partnership with VA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to develop suicide prevention policy. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	GF/GP	\$1,200,000	\$0

		FY 2022-23 Year-to-Date (as of 2/8/23)	FY 2023-24 Senate Change
<b>Major Budget Changes from FY 2022-23 YTD Appropriations</b>			
<b>8. MVFA Veterans Homes Operating Budget Adjustments</b>			
<u>Executive</u> provides \$9.4 million Gross (\$7.9 million GF/GP) to align state restricted and federal funding with ongoing operational and administrative costs of the state's three veterans homes as operating costs stabilize and reflect anticipated occupancy levels at the new facilities for the Chesterfield Township Home for Veterans and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. A separate \$3.0 million GF/GP adjustment is included under one-time appropriations for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as described in item No. 9. Gross ongoing adjustments are:	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$9,435,100</b>
	Federal	NA	5,429,300
	Restricted	NA	(3,883,100)
	GF/GP	NA	\$7,888,900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5.6 million to Chesterfield Township Home for Veterans</li> <li>(\$1.8 million) from D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans</li> <li>\$4.9 million to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans</li> <li>\$700,000 to Michigan Veterans Homes Administration.</li> </ul>			
<u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.			
<b>9. Part 1 Private Revenue Authorization Removal</b>			
<u>Executive</u> eliminates authorization of \$540,000 from private Veterans' Homes Post and Posthumous Funds revenue from Part 1 of the budget, in recognition of authorization available under Part 2 boilerplate. Revenues in the fund are available for use by veterans homes and collected from private posthumous resident funds unclaimed by relatives after 2 years. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$640,000</b>	<b>(\$540,000)</b>
	Private	640,000	(540,000)
	GF/GP	\$0	\$0
<b>10. Selfridge Air National Guard Base (One-Time)</b>			
<u>Executive</u> provides \$10.0 million GF/GP to undertake infrastructure improvements at Selfridge Air National Guard base to be nationally competitive to attract next-generation aircraft flying missions. This is \$3.9 million more than the \$6.1 million GF/GP in one-time funding provided in FY 2022-23 for Selfridge Air National Guard base. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$6,100,000</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</b>
	GF/GP	\$6,100,000	\$3,900,000
<b>11. MVFA GRHV Transition Funding (One-Time)</b>			
<u>Executive</u> provides \$3.0 million GF/GP to align funding with ongoing operational costs at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as operating costs stabilize and reflect anticipated occupancy levels at the home as it transitions from the larger, institutional setting in Grand Rapids to the smaller home operation. This is a reduction of \$3.0 million from a \$6.0 million GF/GP one-time appropriation in FY 2022-23 for similar purposes. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>(\$3,000,000)</b>
	GF/GP	\$6,000,000	(\$3,000,000)
<b>12. Veteran Homelessness Grants</b>			
<u>House</u> provides \$5.0 million GF/GP for MVAA to establish a pilot grant program to provide grants of \$150,000 to non-profit organizations to provide, or assist in providing, housing for homeless veterans and their families in an effort to eliminate veteran homelessness. <u>Executive</u> and <u>Senate</u> do not include.	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	GF/GP	\$0	\$0
<b>13. Removal of FY 2022-23 One-Time Funding</b>			
<u>Executive</u> eliminate \$133.8 million Gross (\$60.9 million GF/GP) of one-time funding appropriated in FY 2022-23:	<b>Gross</b>	<b>\$147,106,000</b>	<b>(\$133,806,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$115.0 million Gross (\$55.0 million GF/GP) for statewide Armory Modernization projects</li> <li>\$100,000 GF/GP for Michigan Volunteer Defense Force</li> <li>\$12.0 million Gross (\$1.5 million GF/GP) for State Veterans Cemetery</li> <li>\$250,000 GF/GP for Veterans Cemetery Feasibility Study</li> <li>\$6.5 million Gross (\$4.1 million GF/GP) for Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Transition.</li> </ul>	Federal	72,331,000	(72,331,000)
	Restricted	560,000	(560,000)
	GF/GP	\$74,215,000	(\$60,915,000)
<u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.			

<b><u>Major Budget Changes from FY 2022-23 YTD Appropriations</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2022-23 Year-to-Date (as of 2/8/23)</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023-24 Senate Change</u></b>
<b>14. Economic Adjustments</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>NA (\$819,200)</b>
<u>Executive</u> adjusts for decreased costs of \$819,200 Gross (\$335,900 GF/GP) for negotiated salary and wage increases (2.0% on October 1, 2023), actuarially required retirement contributions, worker's compensation, building occupancy charges, rent, and other economic adjustments. <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> concur.	Federal	NA (344,900)
	Restricted	NA (138,400)
	GF/GP	NA (\$335,900)

**Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

**Sec. 205. Standard List of Report Recipients – NOT INCLUDED**

Requires boilerplate reports to be submitted to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal agencies, senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office unless directed otherwise. House adds new section. Executive and Senate do not include.

**Sec. 206. Disciplinary Action Against State Employees – RETAINED**

Prohibits departments from taking disciplinary action against employees in the state classified civil service for communicating with legislators or their staff; stipulates disciplinary action may be taken if the communication is prohibited by law and disciplinary action is exercised as authorized by law. (*Governor deemed this section unenforceable in FY 2022-23.*) Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

**Sec. 210. Legislative Contingency Transfer Authorization – REVISED**

Allows for the legislative transfer process to increase federal authorization by up to \$8.6 million, state restricted authorization by up to \$1.1 million, local authorization by up to \$250,000, and private authorization by up to \$100,000. Executive revises to increase maximum amounts of contingency authorizations up to \$12.0 million in federal, \$3.0 million in state restricted, and \$500,000 in local contingency funds to be appropriated. House and Senate concur.

**Sec. 212. Transparency Website – RETAINED**

Requires department to provide data necessary for DTMB to maintain a searchable website that is accessible by public at no cost that includes expenditure data, data on payments made to vendors, and data on number of active employees, job specifications, and wage rates. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

**Sec. 213. State Restricted Funds Report – RETAINED**

Requires department and State Budget Office to report on state restricted fund balances, projected state restricted fund revenues, and state restricted fund expenditures. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

**Sec. 214. Performance Metrics Website – RETAINED**

Requires department to maintain a publicly accessible website that identifies and tracks its performance against key metrics used to monitor and improve its performance. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

**Sec. 214. Annual Legacy Costs – DELETED**

Identifies annual pension-related and retiree health care legacy costs. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

**Sec. 215. Businesses in Deprived and Depressed Communities – REVISED**

Requires directors of each department and agency to take all reasonable steps to ensure businesses in deprived and depressed communities compete for and perform contracts. Executive revises to replace “deprived and depressed communities” with “geographically disadvantaged business enterprises”. House and Senate concur.

**Sec. 216. FTE Vacancies and Remote Work Report – RETAINED**

Requires department to provide quarterly report on FTE counts by classification and actual FTE position counts compared to authorized FTE position counts; requires report on number of employees engaged in remote work in 2022, number of employees authorized to work remotely, and actual number working remotely, estimated net cost savings from remote work, and reduced use of office space associated with remote work. Executive revises to delete all reporting requirements except for a comparison of FTE positions authorized and positions filled. House concurs. Senate retains.

**Sec. 217. Work Project Expenditures – RETAINED**

Prohibits appropriations from being expended in cases where existing work project authorization is available for the same expenditures. (*Governor deemed this section unenforceable in FY 2022-23.*) Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

## **Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

### **Sec. 218. State Administrative Board Transfers – DELETED**

Authorizes legislature, by concurrent resolution adopted by majority of members elected to and serving in each house, to inter-transfer funds if State Administrative Board transfers funds. (*Governor deemed this section unenforceable in FY 2022-23.*) Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 218. Receipt and Retention of Required Reports – RETAINED**

Requires department to receive and retain copies of all reports required in Article VIII; requires federal and state guidelines to be followed for short-term and long-term retention of records; authorizes department to electronically retain copies of reports unless otherwise required by federal and state guidelines. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

### **Sec. 219. Reporting Requirement on Policy Changes – RETAINED**

Requires department to report on policy changes made in order to implement enacted legislation. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

### **Sec. 220. Severance Pay Report – RETAINED**

Requires department and agencies to report names and any amount of severance pay given to high-ranking department officials; requires department and agencies to maintain an internet site and post severance pay in excess of 6 weeks of wages for former department or agency employees; requires department and agencies to submit annual report on total amount of severance pay remitted to former employees during prior fiscal year and total number of those employees; defines “severance pay”. Executive deletes. House revises by retaining current language but deletes requirement for the department to maintain an internet site and post severance pay in excess of 6 weeks of wages for former department or agency employees. Senate retains.

### **Sec. 221. Biannual Reporting on Achieving Requirements – RETAINED**

Requires department to provide biannual reports on status of work projects, financial status, and employment levels. Executive deletes. House concurs. Senate retains.

### **Sec. 221. Work Project Expenditures – RETAINED**

Prohibits appropriations from being expended in cases where existing work project authorization is available for the same expenditures. (*Governor deemed this section unenforceable in FY 2022-23.*) Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

### **Sec. 222. Access to State and Local Services – NOT INCLUDED**

Prohibits appropriations from being used to restrict or interfere with actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, to restrict or impede community access to government programs, or restrict an individual's ability to exercise the right to reproductive freedom; requires local governments to report on actions that attempt to restrict duties of local health officers. Executive adds new section. House concurs. Senate does not include.

### **Sec. 224. Intention to Sell Department Property – RETAINED**

Requires department to provide a 60-day notice of intent to sell property. Executive deletes. House and Senate retain.

### **Sec. 225. Court Settlements Report – DELETED**

Requires department to report tentative plans for required payment of any court judgment against department and details regarding timing and budget impact the payment will have on department. Executive and Senate delete. House retains.

### **Sec. 228. Prohibitions on State Employer COVID-19 Vaccine Status Verifications – DELETED**

Prohibits various state government entities from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination as condition of accessing state services or facilities, producing COVID-19 vaccine passports, developing, or making existing databases public, accessing individuals COVID-19 vaccine status, and requiring proof of receiving COVID-19 vaccine as condition of employment; prohibits state entities from subjecting an individual to negative consequences because of COVID-19 vaccine status; allows an individual to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccine status with consent; exempts certain individuals from federally mandated vaccine policies. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 229. Annual Strategic Plan – RETAINED**

Requires department to submit its annually updated departmental strategic plan to legislature. Executive deletes. House concurs. Senate retains.

## **MILITARY**

### **Sec. 301. Unclassified Positions – RETAINED**

Appropriates funding to support unclassified positions; requires department to notify subcommittees prior to submitting requests for additional unclassified positions or requests for substantive changes to duties of existing unclassified positions; requires annual report listing current unclassified positions with official titles and responsibilities. Executive revises to delete notification of changes requirement. House and Senate retain.

## **Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

### **Sec. 302. Armories and Joint Force Readiness – REVISED**

Requires department to provide for effective and efficient executive level administration of department, operations of Michigan military establishment, and maintenance and operation of National Guard armories as provided under listed laws and regulations; requires biannual report on status of armories; requires National Guard components to provide a culture free of sexual assault through various preventative efforts; requires report assessing current state of armories and developing an investment strategy for physical improvements at armories, including consolidation of armories and establishment of new armories. Executive revises by deleting requirement to provide for effective and efficient direction and leadership; deleting biannual report on the status of armories; deleting requirement to provide a culture free of sexual assault through preventative efforts and includes it as its own section as section 313; and adding a review of construction activities and expenditures related to the armory modernization projects that received one-time funding under 2022 PA 166 for FY 2022-23. House revises by concurring with Executive revisions but retains the reporting requirement and changes the report to annual. Senate revises by concurring with Executive's addition of a review of construction activities and expenditures related to the armory modernization projects.

### **Sec. 304. Military Family Relief Fund – RETAINED**

Requires DMVA to provide grant funding from Military Family Relief Fund, outreach services to military families of members of reserve component called into active duty, and biannual reports on financial activities of fund. Executive revises to delete reporting requirement and to require the department to notify families of deployed reserve members on the availability of assistance through the Military Family Relief Fund. House concurs. Senate retains.

### **Sec. 305. National Guard Training Facilities and Air Bases – REVISED**

Requires department to provide Army National Guard (ARNG) and Air National Guard (ANG) forces, when directed, in support of state and local emergencies, and in support of federal military requirements; requires department to operate and maintain ARNG facilities (including Fort Custer and Camp Grayling) and ANG facilities (Selfridge ANG Base, Battle Creek ANG Base, and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center); requires biannual reports on National Guard personnel strength. Executive revises to make biannual report due annually by March 1 with information for the prior calendar year. House revises to make biannual report annual. Senate concurs with House.

### **Sec. 306. Billeting Fund – RETAINED**

Authorizes the establishment of the Billeting Fund account to collect revenue from the transient quarters program; requires an annual appropriation from the fund to support the program; requires annual report of operations and expenditures regarding Billeting Fund account, which supports program operations of Chargeable Transient Quarters program at National Guard training facilities. Executive revises to delete reporting requirement. House and Senate retain current language.

### **Sec. 313. Sexual Assault Prevention and Response – NOT INCLUDED**

Requires the Michigan Army and Air National Guard to work to provide a culture that is free of sexual assault, through an environment of prevention, education and training, response capability, victim support, reporting procedures, and appropriate accountability for the well-being of all guard members. Executive transfer subsection from section 302 and adds new section. House concurs. Senate does not include.

### **Sec. 313. National Guard COVID-19 Vaccine Waiver Report – DELETED**

Requires department to report on figures of vaccine waiver requests by National Guard members that are received, denied, appealed, and reasons stated for requests. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 314. National Guard Retirement Request Processing Time Report – DELETED**

Requires the department to report on the average number of days taken to process National Guard retirement requests and the number of requests for which processing exceeded 120 days. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

## **MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY**

### **Sec. 404. MVAA Private Donations – REVISED**

Authorizes receipt of private donations to MVAA in excess of funds appropriated and permits expenditure of those funds for purpose designated by donor, if specified; requires quarterly reports of donations under \$10,000 and notification to legislature within 14 days of donations of \$10,000 or more; requires all private donations to be used for the benefit and life enrichment of veterans. Executive revises to authorize unexpended and unencumbered private donations to not lapse to the General Fund and to carry forward to the subsequent fiscal year; deletes reporting requirement. House revises by concurring with Executive but retains reporting requirement. Senate revises by making reporting requirement due quarterly.

## **Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

### **Sec. 405. Veterans' Trust Fund Grants – RETAINED**

Requires MVAA to report biannually on Michigan Veterans Trust Fund financial status, awarded grants, and operating and administrative expenses; requires the provision of emergency grants; requires an annual report on grants issues, county administrative practices and expenditures, details on applications received, and what efforts are done to reduce program administrative costs. Executive revises to delete the biannual report requirement; delete requirement to provide emergency grants; make adjustments to annual reporting requirements. House revises by making biannual report annual and retains current language on existing annual report. Senate retains.

### **Sec. 406. MVAA Outreach Services – RETAINED**

Requires MVAA to provide outreach services to veterans, communicate information on available VA benefits, process requests for military discharge documents, and assist in processing claims for VA benefits; requires annual report providing estimate of state's homeless veterans population. Executive revises to delete outreach minimum goal benchmark of 50% of the state's veteran population and aspirational goal of 90% reached. House and Senate retain current language.

### **Sec. 410. MVAA and County Counseling Services – REVISED**

Requires MVAA to assist veterans in filing claims for VA benefits; establishes a capacity metric of 500 claims per year; requires biannual data on number and type of claims activities; requires MVAA to provide training to county veterans counselors (CVCs); establishes performance metrics for training and CVC-filed claims for VA benefits; requires biannual reports on number and percentage of CVCs requesting training by MVAA; authorizes up to \$50,000 to be expended to provide legal services to represent veterans benefit cases before federal courts in order to maintain accreditation by VA. Executive revises to make biannual report annual; eliminated claims processing and county counselor training goal benchmarks; increased legal services expenditure authorization from \$50,000 to \$100,000. House revises to make biannual report annual and to increase legal services expenditure authorization from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Senate revises to make biannual report annual

### **Sec. 411. Grants to Veterans Service Organizations – RETAINED**

Requires MVAA to provide competitive grants to veterans service organizations (VSOs) using a regional service delivery model and lists requirements for the competitive grant process; requires quarterly reports from grantees on claims and services provided; requires grant recipients to meet performance metrics, specifies basic parameters of grant agreement; requires MVAA to report on grant activities. Executive revises to appropriate \$208,500 of the total amount appropriated for Veterans Service Grants to cover administrative costs. House retains current language. Senate revises to appropriate \$208,500 to cover administrative costs and to authorize unexpended funding as a work project.

### **Sec. 412. Interagency Agreement with Department of Health and Human Services – REVISED**

Requires department to enter into cooperative agreement with DHHS to identify veteran Medicaid recipients who may be eligible for other benefits; requires annual report of number of veterans identified and referred for additional benefits under agreement. Executive deletes. House retains. Senate revises to require the department refer identified eligible veterans for assistance in securing additional benefits and delete the reporting requirement; deletes requirement that the department ask whether applicants have ever served in the military rather than if they are a veteran; deletes subsection clarifying that the department is not prohibited from entering into interagency agreements with other public bodies to obtain information required in subsection (1).

### **Sec. 413. County Veterans Service Fund – REVISED**

Requires funds appropriated for County Veteran Service Fund to be deposited into County Veteran Service Fund created in 2018 PA 210; allocates \$72,100 to Clare County for veteran-related services; stipulates funds are available for expenditure to support county veterans' services grants; authorizes up to \$210,500 to be used to cover costs associated with administration and providing technical assistance to counties participating in grant program; requires an annual detailed expenditures report on counties' use of grant funding. Executive revises to eliminate funding allocation for Clare County and adjusts the appropriation to the fund accordingly; added requirement to report the amount expended for administration in the report. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 414. State Veterans Cemetery Report – NEW**

Requires the department to provide a report on the status of the construction, operations, and finances of the state veterans cemetery authorized under the veterans cemetery act, 2022 PA 267. Executive adds new section. House adds new section and revises the authorization reference to "the state veterans cemetery funded in article 10 of 2022 PA 166". Senate concurs with Executive.

### **Sec. 415. MVAA Veteran Homelessness Study – NOT INCLUDED**

Requires the MVAA to complete a study that includes an analysis of the scope of veteran homelessness in Michigan, identification of challenges to securing housing for homeless veterans, and recommendations for future partnerships and actions that would assist in eliminating veteran homelessness while minimizing additional costs to local units of government. Executive and Senate do not include. House adds.

## **Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

### ***Sec. 415. Suicide Prevention Research Contracts and Grants – NEW***

Authorizes the department to contract with or provide grants to local health care providers to accelerate research and deployment of treatments for suicide prevention that have been granted breakthrough therapy designation by the United States Food and Drug Administration; authorizes hiring of up to 3.0 FTE positions. Executive and House do not include. Senate adds.

## **MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY**

### ***Sec. 451. Private Donations to Veteran Homes – RETAINED***

Appropriates money privately donated to this state's veterans homes and permits its use for the purpose designated by private donor if used for the benefit and life-enrichment of veterans; requires quarterly reports of donations under \$10,000 and notification to the legislature within 14 days of donations of \$10,000 or more. Executive revises to delete reporting requirement. House retains current language. Senate retains.

### ***Sec. 453. Mental Health Services Contractors and Competency Evaluated Nursing Assistants – DELETED***

Requires contractors providing mental health services to Michigan veterans homes to use evidence-based best practices supported by entities listed. Executive revises requirements for mental health interventions from best practices supported by the listed entities to provision of services that complies with all applicable USDVA and CMS regulations; added training and education regulations associated with staff licensure or certification to the requirement. House concurs. Senate deletes.

### ***Sec. 454. Competency Evaluated Nursing Assistants Standards – RETAINED***

Requires contractors that provide Competency Evaluated Nursing Assistants at veterans homes to meet certain performance standards regarding pre-service and in-service training and experience. Executive deletes. House concurs. Senate retains.

### ***Sec. 456. Veterans Homes Complaint Management Process – REVISED***

Requires complaints of alleged abuse or neglect received by supervisors at veterans homes be reported to director of nursing upon receipt; requires director of nursing to provide information on the nature and final disposition of complaints received at least monthly; requires display of the process for registering complaints to be displayed in high-traffic areas throughout veterans homes. Executive revises to subject reports of abuse to VA and CMS regulations. House retains. Senate concurs with Executive.

### ***Sec. 458. Member Care Standards – DELETED***

Requires Michigan Veterans Homes to provide all veterans homes members on-site, board-certified psychiatrist, safe and secure environment, and to ensure veterans homes develop, execute, and monitor all comprehensive care plans in accordance with federal regulations and internal policies. Executive and Senate delete. House retains.

### ***Sec. 460. Veterans Home Internal Controls – REVISED***

Requires Michigan Veterans Homes to establish internal controls over food, maintenance, pharmaceutical, and medical supply inventories, calculating members' maintenance assessments, donations, and handling members' personal funds. Executive revises to add financial reporting and accounting to internal controls to be established and implemented. House and Senate concur.

### ***Sec. 461. Posting to Public Website – REVISED***

Requires the Michigan Veterans Homes to post on its website all adopted policies related to administrative operations of a veterans home, agenda and minutes of MVFA board meetings, report of each veterans home's USDVA State Veteran Home quarterly report, biannual reports on number of members residing in each veterans home and status of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid certification efforts, and results of any for-cause survey and any corresponding corrective action plan. Executive revises to eliminate requirement to post online each veterans facility USDVA State Veteran Home quarterly report and other information; require bi-monthly reports instead of biannual; delete requirement to report CMS certification statuses; add reporting requirement for bi-monthly report on figures for patient numbers and financial status of the homes; delete requirement to provide results of any for-cause survey conducted by any entity with oversight over the veterans facilities and corresponding corrective action plans; add requirement for MVFA to report on strategies to maximize revenues from non-general fund sources and cost savings strategies. House revises to require bi-monthly reports instead of biannual; delete requirement to report CMS certification statuses; add reporting requirement for bi-monthly report on figures for patient numbers and financial status of the homes; add requirement for MVFA to report on strategies to maximize revenues from non-general fund sources and cost savings strategies. Senate concurs with Executive.



## **Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2022-23**

### **Sec. 462. Veterans Homes CMS Certification Reporting – DELETED**

Requires department to report to legislature regarding improvements in full-spectrum health care resulting from facility upgrades to obtain CMS certification. (*Governor deemed this section unenforceable in FY 2022-23.*) Executive deletes. House strikes “or exceeds” from requirement to ensure the quality of care at each veterans’ facility meets or exceeds CMS certification standards. Senate concurs with Executive.

### **Sec. 464. New Upper Peninsula Veterans’ Facility – NEW**

Requires the department to report on the construction, operation, and finances of the new upper peninsula veterans’ facility funded in article 14 of 2022 PA 166. Executive adds new section. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 465. Carryforward Authority for Federal Funds – NEW**

Authorizes unexpended and unencumbered federal revenues received by the MVFA to not lapse to the state general fund, but to carry forward to the subsequent fiscal year. Executive adds new section. House does not include. Senate concurs with Executive.

## **ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS**

### **Sec. 601. State Veterans Cemetery – DELETED**

Requires one-time funds to be used to acquire or to designate state land as a state veterans cemetery and for supporting costs of engineering, designing, conducting environmental impact studies, preparing the land, expenses for applying for and receiving federal funds, and other ongoing expenses of operating a state veterans cemetery; authorizes unexpended funds to not lapse at close of fiscal year and to carry forward to FY 2026-27. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 601. Eliminating Veteran Homelessness Grants – NEW**

Requires the MVAA to create and operate a grant program to provide grants of \$150,000 to non-profit organizations to provide, or assist in providing, housing for homeless veterans and their families; requires a report summarizing grant program activities and expenditures; provides definitions for “veteran” and “homeless”; designates unexpended funds as a work project, to not lapse at close of fiscal year, and to carry forward to FY 2027-28. House adds. Executive and Senate do not include.

### **Sec. 602. Report on Veteran Homes Plan for Federal Revenue Support – DELETED**

Requires the MVFA to provide a detailed strategy, action plan, and timeline for the MVFA to transition the state’s veterans’ homes to be fully supported by federal and state restricted revenues and to not require state GF/GP revenue. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.

### **Sec. 603. Veteran Outreach Program Work Project Authorization – DELETED**

Authorizes unexpended funds appropriated for veterans suicide prevention outreach to not lapse at close of fiscal year and to carry forward to FY 2025-26 to provide outreach to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. Executive deletes. House and Senate concur.