

MICHIGAN MILITARY AND VETERAN SERVICES SUPPORT FUND

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House Bill 4380 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Richard M. Steenland
Committee: Military, Veterans and Homeland Security
Complete to 5-4-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4380 would create a new act to establish the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund and the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund Board and to prescribe the board's powers and duties.

Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund

The bill would create the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund as a charitable and educational endowment fund in the Department of Treasury. Contributions made to the fund would be considered tax-deductible donations. Money granted to the fund or received as a gift or donation would be available for disbursement upon appropriation. Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year would remain in the fund and not lapse to the general fund. The state treasurer would direct the investment of the fund, including investing the assets of the fund as an investment fiduciary under the Public Employee Retirement System Investment Act.

The fund would have to have separate accounts for each of the following:

- Supporting and enhancing Michigan's military service members, their families, and the economy.
- Supporting and enhancing Michigan's veterans, their families, and the communities where they live.

The state treasurer would have to annually prepare an accounting of revenues and expenditures from the fund and provide it to the Senate and House of Representatives appropriations committees. The accounting would have to do all of the following:

- Specifically identify the interest and earnings of the fund.
- Describe how the amount of interest and earnings has been affected by expanded investment options.
- Identify how the increased interest and earnings, if any, have been expended.

Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund Board

The bill would also establish the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund to provide oversight and management of the fund. The board would consist of the following seven members:

- The director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) or his or her designee.
- The director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency or his or her designee.
- Five members who have background or experience in fundraising or charitable giving, appointed by the governor as follows:
 - One who represents the interests of service members and their families.

- One who represents the interests of veterans, their families, and the communities where they live.
- One who represents the interests of a congressionally chartered veteran service organization.
- One who represents the interests of a military trade association or support entity.
- One who represents the interests of the general public.

The members would serve staggered four-year terms. The appointed members would serve until appointment of a successor, and vacancies would be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Members of the board would be subject to 1968 PA 317 and 1968 PA 318, which concern conflict of interest of public servants, and meetings of the board would have to be held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The DMVA would have to provide administrative staff support and other services to the board.

Powers of the board

The board could do all of the following:

- Oversee the fund, request appropriations, and make allocations of revenue from the fund to the DMVA to provide supplemental funding for the services and programs.
- Accept, hold, and administer gifts and bequests of money, securities, or other property to carry out the fund’s purposes.
- Enter into contracts and execute all instruments necessary and appropriate to carry out the fund’s purposes.
- Take reasonably necessary actions to seek, promote, and stimulate contributions for the fund.
- Perform any lawful act necessary or appropriate to carry out the fund’s purposes.
- Develop policies and procedures applicable to the management and functioning of the fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would provide a new revenue source to the DMVA to provide funding for its services and programs through the bill’s creation of the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund. Any allocation of future revenue from the fund would be determined by the Michigan Military and Veteran Services Support Fund Board created under the bill. Future revenue to the fund, from various donation sources, cannot be estimated at this time. Money in the fund would be subject to legislative appropriation to be expended.

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