

SENATE BILL NO. 540

October 03, 2023, Introduced by Senators HERTEL, HAUCK and WOJNO and referred to the Committee on Veterans and Emergency Services.

A bill to create a Michigan veterans coalition grant program; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "Michigan veterans
2 coalition grant program act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Accredited veteran service officer" means an individual
5 who has met the qualifications for accreditation under 38 USC 5904
6 and 38 CFR 14.629.

1 (b) "Agency" means the Michigan veterans affairs agency.

2 (c) "Allowable expenditures" means those expenditures
3 determined by the agency to be necessary and proper to support
4 veteran service operations in this state.

5 (d) "Fund" means the Michigan veterans coalition fund created
6 in the Michigan veterans coalition fund act.

7 (e) "Grant program" means the Michigan veterans coalition
8 grant program created in section 5.

9 (f) "Organization" means a veteran service organization.

10 (g) "Veteran service operations" means assistance and
11 programming of any kind to meet the needs of veterans in this
12 state. Veteran service operations includes, but is not limited to,
13 providing assistance, programming, and services for the purpose of
14 assisting veterans in this state and providing advice, advocacy,
15 and assistance to veterans, servicemembers, dependents, or
16 survivors by an accredited veteran service officer to obtain United
17 States Department of Veterans Affairs health, financial, or
18 memorial benefits for which they are eligible.

19 Sec. 5. (1) The agency shall consult with the Michigan
20 veterans coalition to create and operate a Michigan veterans
21 coalition grant program that provides grants to organizations for
22 allowable expenditures related to veteran service operations. The
23 agency shall make grants from the fund, on appropriation, to each
24 organization that enters into a grant agreement with the agency and
25 meets the conditions described in subsection (2) for the sole use
26 of supporting allowable expenditures made by the organization. The
27 first payment of a grant must be disbursed not later than 60 days
28 after the date the grant request is received, with payments
29 continuing for the duration of the grant as provided in the grant

1 agreement.

2 (2) To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (1), an
3 organization must certify, in a form and manner prescribed by the
4 agency, that the organization provides accredited veteran service
5 officer hours in support of connecting veterans and their families
6 to available federal benefits. Administrative support, as needed,
7 may be approved by the agency in support of veteran service
8 operations.

9 Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless
10 Senate Bill No. 541 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into law.
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