

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB HCC 08-12 Trust Funds of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
SPONSOR(S): Healthcare Council and Bean
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 2120

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
Orig. Comm.: Healthcare Council		Depalma/Massengale	Gormley
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			

I. SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill creates section 20.375, Florida Statutes, to codify the administration of all trust funds maintained by the Department of Veterans' Affairs that were re-created during the 2004 Legislative Session. The bill further amends sections 296.11 and 296.38, Florida Statutes, to specify an additional use of moneys in the department's Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the benefit of veterans who are residents of the Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida or a veterans' nursing home.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2008.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

To implement section 19(f), Article III of the State Constitution, section 215.3208(1), Florida Statutes, specifies that a schedule for review of trust funds be included in the legislative budget instructions developed pursuant to section 216.023, Florida Statutes. The trust funds in the Department of Veterans' Affairs are scheduled for review this year.

All department trust funds were re-created during the 2004 Legislative Session: the Federal Grants Trust Fund (chapter 2004-150, Laws of Florida), the Grants and Donations Trust Fund (chapter 2004-151, Laws of Florida), the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund (chapter 2004-152, Laws of Florida), and the State Home for Veterans Trust Fund (chapter 2004-153, Laws of Florida).

Parts I and II of chapter 296—the Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida Act and the Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida Act—both specify that state veterans' homes are empowered to receive and accept gifts, grants, and endowments in the name of the home. All such moneys received pursuant to these sections are required to be deposited into the department's Grants and Donations Trust Fund, and expended for the common benefit of the residents of the home (such as for the purchase of recreational supplies/equipment, and for other facility improvements).

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill creates section 20.375, Florida Statutes, to codify the administration of all trust funds maintained by the department that were re-created during the 2004 Legislative Session.

The bill further amends sections 296.11 and 296.38, Florida Statutes, to specify that funds in the department's Grants and Donations Trust Fund may be expended for goods and services offered or available to all residents of the Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida or a veterans' nursing home.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

There is sufficient recurring revenue available in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to support projected increased expenditures as a result of the changes to ss. 296.11 and 296.38, Florida Statutes. The department has indicated that the projected expenditures of the "goods and services" would be about \$77,000.

IV. COMMENTS

V. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES