



# HOUSE BILL 1050: Expansion of State Veterans Cemeteries.

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House State and Local Government II. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	June 6, 2018
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Cleveland, Riddell, Floyd	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Nicholas Giddings Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H1050-CSBAa-28		

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 1050 would authorize the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to apply for federal funds to expand Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery and Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery and appropriate those funds.

The PCS to House Bill 1050 would add sections 3 and 4. Section 3 would authorize the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to use available funds to match federal dollars for the construction of two new State veterans' homes and appropriate those funds. Section 4 would provide a grant for the Veterans Life Center in Butner.

**CURRENT LAW:** No money shall be drawn from the State treasury unless appropriated by law.<sup>1</sup> A law enacted by the General Assembly that authorizes the expenditure of money from the State treasury is an appropriation; however, an enactment by the General Assembly that authorizes, specifies, or otherwise provides that funds may be used for a particular purpose is not an appropriation.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS to House Bill 1050 would do the following:

**Section 1** would authorize the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to apply for federal funding to expand Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery and Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery. This section would also authorize the Department to use certain funds to satisfy the 10% match for the federal grant.

**Section 2** would appropriate the funds in Section 1 for the cemetery expansions.

**Section 3** would authorize the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to use available funds in the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund, up to \$28 million, to satisfy the required State match when receiving federal funding in order to construct two new State veterans' homes.<sup>2</sup> This section would also appropriate the matching funds as well as the federal funds.

**Section 4** would appropriate \$500,000 from the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund to provide a grant for the Veterans Life Center in Butner and require the Veterans Leadership Council of North Carolina-Cares to submit a detailed report on its use of the grant funds to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Fiscal Research Division by June 1, 2019.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would become effective July 1, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Section 7 of Article V of the North Carolina Constitution and G.S. 143C-1-2.

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides assistance to states for the acquisition, construction, and renovation of state veterans' homes, adult day care centers and domiciliary through the VA State Home Construction Grant Program. The VA provides funding up to 65% of the allowable costs of the project, and states provide 35% matching funds.

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