



HOUSE BILL 370: No Veteran Left Behind Act.

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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 19, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Bell, Moore, Cleveland, Miller	Prepared by:	Myra Torain
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H370-CSLGA-3		Legislative Analyst

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 370 appropriates funds to The Independence Fund, Inc., to establish and implement a pilot program to expand the Veterans Justice Intervention program by working with law enforcement departments in several counties. The Independence Fund, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of veterans and their families. The Veterans Intervention program helps justice-involved veterans who suffer from unique mental health and substance abuse issues avoid unnecessary extended incarceration by ensuring that eligible veterans have timely access to veterans' services.*

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of the PCS appropriates a directed grant of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to The Independence Fund, Inc., to establish and implement a pilot program to expand the Veterans Justice Intervention (VJI) program by working with the following non-State entities: the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the Sheriff's Departments in Brunswick, Chatham, Craven, Cumberland, McDowell, Nash, Onslow, Union, and Wayne Counties. The grant may be used to hire or contract a subject matter expert for assessment, coordination, and VJI implementation in each of the designated departments.

Section 2 sets out, as a condition of the appropriation, the parameters for the pilot program, including reporting requirements.

Section 3 concerns the definitions and statutory requirements for the grant funding.

Section 4 states that the act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "No Veteran Left Behind Act."

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law.

Kory Goldsmith
Director



Legislative Drafting
919-733-6660