



HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 33.3: Veterans Life Center Challenge Grant

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	November 28, 2023
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Karyl Smith Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 33.3 of S.L. 2023-134		

OVERVIEW: Section 33.3 of S.L. 2023-134 establishes a challenge grant program in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) for the Veterans Life Center (Center) to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services and support to veterans across the State.

This section became effective on July 1, 2023.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 33.3(a) of S.L. 2023-134 establishes a challenge grant program in DMVA for the Center and directs DMVA to administer the program. Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the challenge grant program must be used to allocate funds to the Center only for the purpose of providing rehabilitation and reintegration services and support to veterans across the State, unless another purpose is expressly authorized by the General Assembly.

DVMA can disburse up to \$750,000 in State funds to the Center each fiscal year. DVMA must disburse State funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis each quarter, so that the Center receives a State dollar for each non-State dollar raised by the Center that quarter. DVMA cannot disburse State funds to the Center if the Center does not raise non-State funds. The Center is prohibited from supplanting, shifting, or reallocating Center funds for the purpose of achieving the required non-State matching dollars.

DVMA must submit a written report, no later than July 1 of each year, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Fiscal Research Division on certain information concerning veterans. The Center must provide the information to DVMA in the manner and time period requested by DVMA for purposes of preparing the report.

Section 33.3(b) of S.L. 2023-134 clarifies that, notwithstanding the new grant program requirements, if DVMA does not disburse grant funds to the Center in a fiscal year because the Center did not satisfy the requirements of the grant contract between DVMA and the Center on or before June 30 of that fiscal year, the grant funds do not revert on June 30, but remain available to DVMA to disburse to the Center in the following fiscal year as long as the Center satisfies the grant contract requirements. In such a case, DVMA is authorized to disburse grant funds to the Center in an amount greater than \$750,000 in a fiscal year because the amount disbursed is for both the prior fiscal year and the current fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 33.3 of S.L. 2023-134 became effective on July 1, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-301-1976