



SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 26.2: The Independence Fund

2025-2026 General Assembly

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 26.2

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Section 26.2 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), notwithstanding State law regarding the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund, provides to the Office of State Budget and Management one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to provide a directed grant to The Independence Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to continue to expand the Veterans Justice Intervention (VJI) program by working with law enforcement agencies all across the State. These funds can be used to contract with a subject matter expert for the assessment, coordination, and implementation of the VJI in each of the law enforcement departments.

To receive the funds, The Independence Fund, Inc. must comply with several requirements including providing education to veterans on crisis intervention and resources available to them, monitoring and assessing each county's initial response to veterans in crises, and reporting to the Joint Legislative Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division on the effectiveness of the program by June 30, 2027.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Kara McCraw
Director



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