

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee

BILL: SB 2120

INTRODUCER: Senator Peaden

SUBJECT: Trust Funds/Department of Veterans' Affairs

DATE: March 12, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Peters	Peters	HA	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill codifies into statute all of the trust funds administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs that were re-created during the 2004 Legislative Session: Federal Grants Trust Fund; Grants and Donations Trust Fund; Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund; and State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund. The bill also specifies an additional use of funds in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the benefit of veterans who are residents of the Veterans' Domiciliary Home or Veterans' Nursing Home that allows funds to be expended for goods and services offered or available to all residents.

The bill creates s. 20.375, F.S., and amends ss. 296.11 and 296.38, F.S.

II. 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, F.S.. 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).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Creates s. 20.375, F.S., to provide for the administration of the Federal Grants Trust Fund, the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The bill provides for the sources and uses of the trust funds and the disposition of balances in the trust funds.

Section 2. Amends s. 296.11, F.S., to provide for an additional use of funds in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the benefit of veterans who are residents of the Veterans’ Domiciliary Home that allows funds to be expended for goods and services offered or available to all residents.

Section 3. Amends s. 296.38, F.S., to provide for an additional use of funds in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the benefit of veterans who are residents of the Veterans’ Nursing Home that allows funds to be expended for goods and services offered or available to all residents.

Section 4. Provides for a July 1, 2008 effective date.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

Recurring revenue is available in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to support increased expenditures for “goods and services” contemplated in the amendments to ss. 296.11 and 296.38, F.S.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.