

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 585**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Fox**

February 20, 2013

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An act to add and repeal Section 713 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 585, as introduced, Fox. Homeless veterans' assistance pilot program.

Under existing law, the Department of Veterans Affairs has specified powers and duties relating to various programs serving veterans, including establishing housing projects. Existing law requires the department to include specified information in its strategic plan related to homeless veterans.

This bill would establish, until January 1, 2018, the Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Pilot Program, in up to 4 counties that agree to participate. The bill would provide that the pilot program would be administered at the state level by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, and would prescribe the department's responsibilities in this regard. This bill would require the department to provide \$100,000 to each county for purposes of the pilot program, from which the county would provide a monthly stipend of \$500 to eligible homeless veterans. The bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Fund, which the bill would create, for purposes of the pilot program.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 713 is added to the Military and Veterans  
2 Code, to read:

3 713. (a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
4 Homeless Veterans’ Housing Assistance Pilot Program.

5 (b) The department in consultation with the Department of  
6 Housing and Community Development, shall establish a four-year  
7 pilot program in up to four counties, to provide assistance to  
8 homeless veterans as provided in this section. Under the program,  
9 each county that agrees to participate in the program shall provide  
10 a monthly housing stipend of five hundred dollars (\$500) to eligible  
11 veterans identified by the county.

12 (c) The department shall serve as the lead agency for the pilot  
13 program. The department’s responsibilities shall include, but shall  
14 not be limited to, all of the following:

15 (1) Development of criteria for the selection of the pilot program  
16 counties.

17 (2) Selection of the pilot program counties to participate in the  
18 pilot program.

19 (3) Providing, or arranging for, technical assistance to  
20 participating counties.

21 (4) Development of specific performance outcome measures  
22 by which the program can be evaluated.

23 (d) (1)The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby  
24 appropriated from the General Fund to the Homeless Veterans’  
25 Housing Assistance Fund, which is hereby created, to implement  
26 the pilot program created by this section. Moneys in the fund shall  
27 be allocated by the department as provided in paragraph (2).

28 (2) Of the funds appropriated pursuant to this section, one  
29 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be allocated to each  
30 participating county for the purposes of providing the housing  
31 stipend described in subdivision (b).

32 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018,  
33 and as of that date is repealed.

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