

Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Senators Denham (Chair), Cedillo, Correa, Maldonado, Negrete McLeod, Wiggins, and Wyland)

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 419, as introduced, Committee on Veterans Affairs. County veteran service officers: funding.

Existing law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veteran service officer, and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veteran service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions. Existing law finds and declares that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately \$5,000,000, and that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

This bill would make changes to those findings and declarations by declaring that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately \$11,000,000.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

SECTION 1. Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 138 of the Statutes of 2004, is amended to read:

972.1. (a) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation, during the 1989–90 fiscal year, for purposes of funding the activities of county veteran service officers pursuant to this section. Funds for allocation in future years shall be as provided in the annual Budget Act.

(b) Funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year on a pro rata basis to counties that have established and maintain a county veteran service officer in accordance with the staffing level and workload of each county veteran service officer under a formula based upon performance that shall be developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for these purposes.

(c) The department shall annually determine the amount of new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the federal government attributable to the assistance of county veteran service officers. The department shall on or before January 1, prepare and transmit its determination for the preceding fiscal year to the Department of Finance and the Legislature. The Department of Finance shall review the department's determination in time to use the information in the annual Budget Act for the budget of the department for the next fiscal year.

(d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately—*five eleven* million dollars—~~(\$5,000,000)~~ *(\$11,000,000)*. The Legislature further finds and declares that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed ~~five eleven~~ million dollars ~~(\$5,000,000)~~ *(\$11,000,000)* if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the effort of these officers.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature, after reviewing the department's determination in subdivision (c), to consider an increase in the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the

1 assistance of county veteran service officers justify that increase
2 in the budget.

3 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2011,
4 and as of that date is repealed.

5 SEC. 2. Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, as
6 amended by Section 146 of Chapter 22 of the Statutes of 2005, is
7 amended to read:

8 972.1. (a) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
9 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
10 of Veterans Affairs for allocation, during the 1989–90 fiscal year,
11 for purposes of funding the activities of county veteran service
12 officers pursuant to this section. Funds for allocation in future
13 years shall be as provided in the annual Budget Act.

14 (b) Funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year on a pro rata basis
15 to counties that have established and maintain a county veteran
16 service officer in accordance with the staffing level and workload
17 of each county veteran service officer under a formula based upon
18 performance that shall be developed by the Department of Veterans
19 Affairs for these purposes, and that shall allocate county funds in
20 any fiscal year for county veteran service officers in an amount
21 not less than the amount allocated in the 1988–89 fiscal year.

22 (c) The department shall annually determine the amount of new
23 or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the
24 federal government attributable to the assistance of county veteran
25 service officers. The department shall on or before January 1,
26 prepare and transmit its determination for the preceding fiscal year
27 to the Department of Finance and the Legislature. The Department
28 of Finance shall review the department's determination in time to
29 use the information in the annual Budget Act for the budget of the
30 department for the next fiscal year.

31 (d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of
32 the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers
33 is approximately—*five eleven* million dollars—~~(\$5,000,000)~~
34 ~~(\$11,000,000)~~. The Legislature further finds and declares that it
35 is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the
36 annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not
37 to exceed ~~five eleven~~ million dollars—~~(\$5,000,000)~~ ~~(\$11,000,000)~~
38 if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state's veterans
39 attributable to the effort of these officers.

- 1 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature, after reviewing the
- 2 department's determination in subdivision (c), to consider an
- 3 increase in the annual budget for county veteran service officers
- 4 in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if
- 5 the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the
- 6 assistance of county veteran service officers justify that increase
- 7 in the budget.
- 8 (e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2011.