

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

February 19, 2010

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1388, 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.

This bill would appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the department for allocation during the 2010–11 fiscal year.

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 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code,
- 2 as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 138 of the Statutes of 2004,
- 3 is amended to read:
- 4 972.1. (a) The sum of ~~five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~
- 5 *five million dollars (\$5,000,000)* is hereby appropriated from the

1 General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation,
2 during the ~~1989-90~~ 2010-11 fiscal year, for purposes of funding
3 the activities of county veteran service officers pursuant to this
4 section. Funds for allocation in future years shall be as provided
5 in the annual Budget Act.

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

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

21 (d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of
22 the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers
23 is approximately five million dollars (\$5,000,000). The Legislature
24 further finds and declares that it is an efficient and reasonable use
25 of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran
26 service officers in an amount not to exceed five million dollars
27 (\$5,000,000) if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state’s
28 veterans attributable to the effort of these officers.

29 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature, after reviewing the
30 department’s determination in subdivision (c), to consider an
31 increase in the annual budget for county veteran service officers
32 in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if
33 the monetary benefits to the state’s veterans attributable to the
34 assistance of county veteran service officers justify that increase
35 in the budget.

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

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

1 972.1. (a) The sum of ~~five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~
2 *five million dollars (\$5,000,000)* is hereby appropriated from the
3 General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation,
4 during the ~~1989-90~~ *2010-11* fiscal year, for purposes of funding
5 the activities of county veteran service officers pursuant to this
6 section. Funds for allocation in future years shall be as provided
7 in the annual Budget Act.

8 (b) Funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year on a pro rata basis
9 to counties that have established and maintain a county veteran
10 service officer in accordance with the staffing level and workload
11 of each county veteran service officer under a formula based upon
12 performance that shall be developed by the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs for these purposes, and that shall allocate county funds in
14 any fiscal year for county veteran service officers in an amount
15 not less than the amount allocated in the ~~1988-89~~ *2010-11* fiscal
16 year.

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

26 (d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of
27 the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers
28 is approximately five million dollars (\$5,000,000). The Legislature
29 further finds and declares that it is an efficient and reasonable use
30 of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran
31 service officers in an amount not to exceed five million dollars
32 (\$5,000,000) if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state's
33 veterans attributable to the effort of these officers.

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

- 1 (e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2011.

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