

HOUSE BILL NO. 5266

November 12, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Morgan, Rogers, Neeley, Brixie, Dievendorf, Xiong, Byrnes, Young, B. Carter, Price, McKinney, Witwer, Tate, Liberati, Weiss, Tsernoglou, Steckloff, Breen, Paiz, Scott, Mentzer, O'Neal, Glanville, Longjohn, T. Carter, Andrews, Miller, McFall, Koleszar and Wooden and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

An act to create the office of veteran homelessness; to provide for the identification, coordination, alignment, and acquisition of available resources and available programs for homeless veterans in this state; to provide support and programs to secure housing for homeless veterans in this state or otherwise address veteran homelessness; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; and to make appropriations and prescribe certain conditions for the appropriations.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "veteran homelessness
2 act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Available programs" means state, federal, and local
5 programs related to addressing veteran homelessness or underlying
6 issues related to homelessness, including, but not limited to,
7 mental health, substance use disorders, and lack of transferable
8 job skills, that are available to veterans in this state.

9 (b) "Available resources" means state, federal, and local
10 resources available for homeless veterans in this state.

11 (c) "Department" means the department of military and veterans
12 affairs.

13 (d) "Department director" means the director of the
14 department.

15 (e) "Homeless" or "homelessness" means homeless as that term
16 is defined in 42 USC 11302.

17 (f) "Office" means the office of veteran homelessness created
18 in section 5.

19 (g) "Office director" means the director of the office
20 appointed under section 5.

21 (h) "Veteran" means that term is defined in section 1 of 1965
22 PA 190, MCL 35.61.

23 (i) "Veteran homelessness fund" means the veteran homelessness
24 fund created in section 7.

25 Sec. 5. (1) The office of veteran homelessness is created in
26 the department.

27 (2) The department director shall appoint the office director
28 who shall manage the operations of the office.

29 (3) The office shall do all of the following:

1 (a) Identify available resources and available programs to
2 support homeless veterans in this state.

3 (b) Coordinate available resources to ensure the best
4 utilization of those resources for homeless veterans in this state.

5 (c) Align and target available programs to ensure the best
6 utilization of those programs for homeless veterans in this state.

7 (d) Maintain a website that describes the available resources,
8 the available programs, and the services provided by the office.

9 (e) Provide outreach services to veterans in this state to
10 advise them of available resources, available programs, and
11 services provided by the office.

12 (f) Assist veterans in obtaining available resources or
13 participating in available programs.

14 (g) Support and participate in interdepartmental coordination
15 on efforts essential to the office's mission.

16 (h) Assist in the development and monitor the implementation
17 of state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and budgets relating
18 to the office's mission.

19 (i) As issues emerge, recommend changes in state and federal
20 law, rules, regulations, policies, guidelines, practices,
21 procedures, and budgets relating to the office's mission.

22 (4) The office may do any of the following:

23 (a) Identify, coordinate, align, and acquire private resources
24 and programs available for homeless veterans.

25 (b) Establish additional programs and resources to address
26 veteran homelessness.

27 (c) Perform other duties related to the office's mission as
28 determined by the office director.

29 Sec. 7. (1) The veteran homelessness fund is created in the

1 state treasury.

2 (2) The state treasurer may deposit money and other assets
3 received from any other source in the fund. The state treasurer
4 shall direct the investment of money in the fund and credit
5 interest and earnings from the investments to the fund.

6 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year remains
7 in the fund and does not lapse to the general fund.

8 (4) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits
9 of the fund.

10 (5) The department shall expend money from the fund, on
11 appropriation, only for the creation, implementation, and
12 administration of the office and its activities.

13 (6) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026,
14 \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated to the department and shall be
15 deposited in the fund. Money deposited in the fund under this
16 subsection is appropriated and available for expenditure for the
17 purposes described in subsection (5).

18 (7) As used in this section, "fund" means the veteran
19 homelessness fund.

20 Sec. 9. (1) Not later than January 1 of each year, the office
21 shall submit a report on its operations to the senate and house of
22 representatives appropriations committees, the senate veterans and
23 emergency services committee, and the house of representatives
24 families and veterans committee.

25 (2) The report under subsection (1) must include all of the
26 following information:

27 (a) An analysis of the scope of homelessness among this
28 state's veteran population, including the estimated number of
29 homeless veterans, by county.

1 (b) Challenges to securing housing for homeless veterans or
2 otherwise addressing veteran homelessness.

3 (c) A summary of the available resources and available
4 programs for homeless veterans in this state.

5 (d) A summary of federal policy initiatives by the United
6 States Department of Veterans Affairs that are intended to address
7 homelessness.

8 (e) A description of the activities of the office in the
9 previous fiscal year to support homeless veterans or eliminate
10 homelessness among veterans.

11 (f) An identification of the needs of homeless veterans in
12 this state that are not adequately addressed by available resources
13 or available programs and recommendations for new resources or
14 programs.

15 (g) Recommendations for future partnerships or activities that
16 could assist in eliminating homelessness among veterans in this
17 state.

18 (h) Any other policy recommendations for future legislative
19 action.

20 (i) Any other relevant information or recommendations
21 regarding issues related to veteran homelessness in this state, as
22 determined by the office director.