

ANALYSIS OF THE VETERANS' POSTWAR TRUST FUND FOR THE 2007-09 BIENNIUM

	2007-09 Biennium	
Beginning balance - July 1, 2007		\$5,117,955
Add estimated revenues		
Investment income	\$92,178	
Sale of vans	10,000	
Total estimated revenues		102,178
Total available		\$5,220,133
Less estimated expenditures and transfers		
Grants	\$235,000	
Operating expenses	3,500	
Administrative committee travel	18,000	
Veterans Home activities	37,770	
Vehicles - Vans	65,000	
Veterans' transportation programs	5,500	
Other veterans' programs	20,000	
Appeals Committee	1,000	
New Veterans Home construction project	150,000 ¹	
Stand Down (outreach to homeless veterans)	5,000	
Total estimated expenditures and transfers		540,770
Estimated ending balance - June 30, 2009		\$4,679,363

¹The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs does not anticipate these funds will be spent during the 2007-09 biennium, but the committee has pledged the funds to enable the Veterans Home to secure additional federal Department of Veterans Affairs grants for construction of the new Veterans Home.

NOTE: The **principal balance of the fund is \$4,101,849**, leaving an estimated available investment income balance of \$577,514 as of June 30, 2009. The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs has a policy of reserving a portion of the investment income balance to generate additional investment income. The reserve balance was \$400,000 as of May 1, 2008. The committee anticipates setting aside \$100,000 in the 2007-09 biennium for the reserve account. The estimated June 30, 2009, balance made at the end of the 2007 legislative session was \$5,033,711. The decrease in the estimated balance of \$354,348 is due to the pledge of \$150,000 from the veterans' postwar trust fund for the new Veterans Home construction project and reduced investment income resulting from a reduction in the market value of investments in the first quarter of 2008.

FUND HISTORY Established

The fund was created by Section 6 of 1981 Senate Bill No. 2271:

SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF VIETNAM BONUS FUNDS TO VETERANS' POSTWAR TRUST FUND. All unobligated moneys in the Vietnam veterans' adjusted compensation funds in the state treasury after July 1, 1981, shall be transferred by the state treasurer to the veterans' postwar trust fund. Any obligations of such funds as a result of any amendment of section 37-25-10 by the forty-seventh legislative assembly shall be paid out of the veterans' postwar trust fund and the moneys necessary to meet those obligations are hereby appropriated.

1988 Initiated Measure No. 4

Initiated measure No. 4, approved by the voters in the November 1988 general election, provided the following:

- Established the veterans' postwar trust fund as a permanent fund.
- Required the State Treasurer to transfer \$740,000 per year for five years commencing July 1, 1989, from the state general fund or other sources as appropriated by the Legislative Assembly to the veterans' postwar trust fund to total \$3.7 million.
- Appropriated the income from the veterans' postwar trust fund on a continuing basis to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs to be spent for veterans' programs as authorized by law.
- Required the State Treasurer to invest the fund in legal investments as provided by North Dakota Century Code Section 21-10-07.

The principal balance in the fund on December 8, 1988, was \$401,849.

Senate Bill No. 2009 (1989) transferred \$1,480,000, \$740,000 on July 1, 1989, and \$740,000 on July 1, 1990, from the state general fund to the veterans' postwar trust fund. The bill also appropriated up to \$274,000 of investment income earned on the veterans' postwar trust fund balance to the Veterans Home for its operating costs. Because of net budget reductions during the 1989-91 biennium, the transfer from the general fund to the veterans' postwar trust fund for the second year of the 1989-91 biennium was reduced by \$95,005, from \$740,000 to \$644,995.

Senate Bill No. 2001 (1991) transferred \$1,575,005 from the general fund to the veterans' postwar trust fund during the 1991-93 biennium. This amount restored the \$95,005 which was not transferred during the 1989-91 biennium because of net budget reductions. Because of budget allotments ordered by the Governor during the 1991-93 biennium, the transfer from the general fund to the veterans' postwar trust fund for the second year of the 1991-93 biennium was reduced by \$5,670, from \$740,000 to \$734,330.

House Bill No. 1001 (1993) transferred \$745,670 from the general fund to the veterans' postwar trust fund during the 1993-95 biennium. This was the final transfer required by the initiated measure and includes \$5,670 to restore the reduction made during the 1991-93 biennium because of budget reductions.

1996 Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 4

Initiated constitutional measure No. 4, approved by the voters in the November 1996 general election, created the following new section to Article X of the North Dakota Constitution:

The veterans' postwar trust fund shall be a permanent trust fund of the state of North Dakota and shall consist of moneys transferred or credited to the fund as authorized by legislative enactment. Investment of the fund shall be the responsibility of the state treasurer who shall have full authority to invest the fund only in the same manner as the state investment board is authorized to make investments. All income received from investments is to be utilized for programs which must be of benefit and service to veterans, who are defined by legislative enactment, or their dependents, and such income is hereby appropriated to the administrative committee on veterans' affairs on a continuing basis for expenditure upon those programs selected at the discretion of the administrative committee on veterans' affairs.