

**Veterans' Home  
Budget No. 313  
House Bill No. 1007**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2019-21 legislative appropriation	120.72	\$5,679,324 <sup>1</sup>	\$19,275,822	\$24,955,146
2017-19 legislative appropriation	<u>120.72</u>	<u>5,951,439</u>	<u>18,740,593</u>	<u>24,692,032</u>
2019-21 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2017-19 appropriation	0.00	(\$272,115)	\$535,229	\$263,114

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$25,000 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing general fund appropriation is \$5,654,324.

**Item Description**

**FTE position changes** - The Legislative Assembly approved 120.72 FTE positions for the Veterans' Home for the 2019-21 biennium, the same as the 2017-19 biennium. Of the total, 6 FTE positions are underfunded, resulting in a reduction of \$839,040, of which \$355,309 is from the general fund and \$483,731 is from other funds.

**One-time funding** - In Section 2 of House Bill No. 1007, the Legislative Assembly identified \$549,050 of one-time funding for the Veterans' Home, of which \$25,000 is from the general fund and \$524,050 is from other funds. The table below summarizes one-time funding provided to the Veterans' Home for the 2019-21 biennium.

	General Fund	Other Funds <sup>1</sup>	Total
Equipment <sup>2</sup>		\$99,400	\$99,400
Strategic plan	\$25,000		25,000
Skilled nursing flooring project		138,700	138,700
Administrator's residence demolition <sup>3</sup>		233,450	233,450
Security system upgrades		52,500	52,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$524,050</b>	<b>\$549,050</b>

<sup>1</sup>Funding for these items is from the soldiers' home fund.

<sup>2</sup>The one-time appropriation for equipment includes funding for a boilerless steamer (\$18,500), dish machines (\$21,900), a commercial refrigerator (\$9,000), a Toro broom (\$6,000), dryers (\$20,500), and a Whirlpool tub (\$23,500).

<sup>3</sup>The demolition of the administrator's residence includes the demolition of the house, driveway, and two underground tunnels.

**Status/Result**

The underfunded positions include 1.90 FTE licensed practical nurse positions and 4.10 FTE residential living specialist positions. The Veterans' Home has indicated these positions were assigned to basic care areas of the Veterans' Home that are closed due to low census.

The following is a summary of the status of the Veterans' Home one-time funding items through March 2020.

- **Equipment** - The Veteran's Home has spent \$33,155 and expects to purchase all equipment by the end of the biennium.
- **Strategic plan** - The Veterans' Home entered a \$25,000 contract with Eide Bailly, LLP to prepare the strategic plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterans' Home has not spent any funding on the strategic plan but anticipates working with Eide Bailly when visitor restrictions are lifted at the Veterans' Home.
- **Skilled nursing flooring project** - The Veterans' Home has not spent any funding appropriated for the flooring project in the skilled nursing areas of the facility. The Veterans' Home anticipates spending the entire amount during the biennium but has indicated the amount of flooring installed may be less than anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New guidelines for health care facilities include avoiding the use of carpeted areas, which may result in the Veterans' Home installing other flooring, such as vinyl, which is more costly than carpet.
- **Administrator's residence demolition** - The demolition of the administrator's residence is expected to begin in June 2020. The Veterans' Home anticipates the demolition will be completed within 2 months, unless the building contains asbestos, which would extend the time to complete the demolition. The Veterans' Home does not anticipate spending the entire amount due to the successful demolition bid being lower than originally estimated.
- **Security system upgrades** - The Veterans' Home has not spent any of the \$52,500 appropriation for security system upgrades but anticipates

spending the entire amount by the end of the biennium. In the fall of 2019, resident medications were stolen from the Veterans' Home pharmacy, resulting in the Veterans' Home installing additional security cameras not previously budgeted for using \$18,563 of savings in the capital assets line item.

The Veterans' Home administrator began receiving the housing stipend in July 2019 and expects to use the entire \$48,000 during the biennium.

The Veterans' Home continued the entire \$150,500 for the nurse call system upgrade into the 2019-21 biennium. Through March 2020, the Veterans' Home spent \$164,085 on the upgrade, of which \$133,930 was from the capital assets line item and \$30,155 was for unforeseen IT costs using savings in the operating expenses line item. The upgrades were installed in December 2019. The vendor is completing minor technical issues, so the Veterans' Home is withholding final payment for the upgrades. After final payment, the Veterans' Home indicated the total cost of the nurse call system upgrades will be \$175,155, of which \$145,000 is from the \$150,500 appropriation in the capital assets line item and \$30,155 is from savings in the operating expenses line item.

**Administrator housing stipend** - Section 3 of House Bill No. 1007 identifies \$48,000 in the operating expenses line item for a \$2,000 per month housing stipend to be provided to the Veterans' Home administrator for housing costs off of the Veterans' Home campus.

**Nurse call system upgrade** - Section 5 of House Bill No. 1007 transferred \$68,000 from the soldiers' home fund from the operating expenses line item to the capital assets line item during the 2017-19 biennium for the nurse call system upgrade. The \$68,000 transfer was in addition to the \$82,500 of one-time funding from the soldiers' home fund appropriated by the 2017 Legislative Assembly for the upgrade. Section 5 also provided an exemption to allow the Veterans' Home to continue the \$150,500 for the nurse call system upgrade into the 2019-21 biennium. Section 6 provided an emergency clause related to Section 5.