

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVES EGAN, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, CHASSION, CREWS,
DAVIS, DICKERSON, EMERSON, HORTON, JACKSON, KNOX, SPELL,
STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, AND WYBLE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:122(B)(7) and (8) and (C), relative to the Louisiana Military Family
3 Assistance Fund; to expand the authorized expenditures of the fund to include
4 indigent veteran burials and indigent student benefits; to provide for annual grants
5 from the fund; to provide for application requirements for the grants; to provide for
6 use of the grant funds; to provide for audits of the grantees; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 46:122(B)(7) and (8) and (C) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §122. Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund

11 * * *

12 B. The money in the fund shall be used solely for the following purposes:

13 * * *

14 (7) To pay, at the discretion of the Louisiana Military Family Assistance
15 Board, burial fees and costs for deceased indigent veterans or their spouses. For
16 purposes of this Section, "indigent" is defined as an individual that was receiving
17 public assistance, such as food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families,
18 Medicaid, disability insurance, or residing in public housing, or earning less than two
19 hundred percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline prior to their death.

20 (8) To pay sums necessary for expenses of eligible beneficiaries under R.S.
21 29:288, as limited by the provisions of R.S. 29:289.

22 C.(1) The Louisiana Military Family Assistance Board shall have the
23 authority to issue annual grants from the Military Family Assistance Fund to
24 tax-exempt organizations established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

1 Revenue Code, that have been in existence for at least three years. The board shall
 2 consider applications only from organizations seeking to improve the education,
 3 mental health, or housing needs of veterans and their families. Each one-time grant
 4 shall be limited to ten thousand dollars. The board's grant authority shall be
 5 cumulatively limited to one hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year.

6 (2) Applicants shall submit a specific proposal for the use of any grant. Grant
 7 funds shall be used only in accordance with the project proposal and budget
 8 approved by the board.

9 (3) Grant funds shall not be used as collateral, to offset other financial
 10 obligations, including interest payments on lines of credit, and securing or servicing
 11 debt, or to meet cash flow or general operating expenses that are unrelated to the
 12 purpose of the grant proposal as defined in the grant agreement letter.

13 (4) Grantees shall be required to submit a final report outlining the
 14 expenditures of the grant. Grantees are required to retain account records, detailing
 15 all receipts and expenditures, for a minimum of four years following submission of
 16 the final grant report.

17 (5) Grantees shall repay any grant funds not used for the grant purpose within
 18 thirty days of submission of the final report required by this Subsection.

19 (6) Grantees shall be subject to audit by the Military Family Assistance Board
 20 and the legislative auditor regarding the use of grant funds.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____