



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 61** HLS 24RS 285
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Date: March 26, 2024 4:54 PM | Author: HORTON |
| Dept./Agy.: Veterans Affairs/LA National Guard | |
| Subject: Death and disability benefits | Analyst: Tanesha Morgan |

VETERANS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to National Guard death and disability benefits

Present law provides for death and disability benefits for members of the LA National Guard or their beneficiaries. Present law provides for benefits for death and disability incurred during a period of activation, subsequent to September 11, 2001, in the line of duty to a guardsman or his beneficiary. Proposed law retains present law but removes the qualifying period of post September 11, 2001, and modifies the definition of "period of activation".

| EXPENDITURES | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Ded./Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Local Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |
| REVENUES | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Ded./Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Local Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Annual Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in a significant but indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures to the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs (LDVA) associated with increasing the number of veterans who are eligible for disability payments and additional workload to process claims and appeals. LDVA estimates that they will need three (3) Admin Program Specialists and one (1) Counselor at an annual cost of approximately \$350,000 for salaries and benefits.

The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation is indeterminable, because it is not known how many veterans who were activated on or before September 11, 2001 will be approved for disability benefits. **To the extent proposed law results in one (1) full disability awarded to a veteran, the fiscal impact is \$100,000, and to the extent it impacts two (2) partial disability awards to veterans, the impact is \$50,000 per award for a total of \$100,000.**

Proposed law modifies the definition of "period of activation" to remove the qualifying period of post September 11, 2001, which expands disability benefits to qualifying veterans who were activated on or before September 11, 2001. The \$100,000 disability benefit is awarded to eligible guardsmen who receive a 100% total and permanent disability rating from injuries incurred in eligible periods of activation and claimed and service-connected in their initial rating decision from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (USVA). The \$50,000 disability benefit, created by the legislature in 2020, is awarded to eligible guardsmen whose initial injuries progressed or worsened to a 100% total and permanent disability rating after the initial examination or rating based on specific parameters.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer