

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

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Provides relative to the Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund

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.

1           (8) To pay sums necessary for expenses of eligible beneficiaries under R.S.  
2           29:288, as limited by the provisions of R.S. 29:289.

3           C.(1) The Louisiana Military Family Assistance Board shall have the  
4           authority to issue annual grants from the Military Family Assistance Fund to  
5           tax-exempt organizations established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
6           Revenue Code, that have been in existence for at least three years. The board shall  
7           consider applications only from organizations seeking to improve the education,  
8           mental health, or housing needs of veterans and their families. Each one-time grant  
9           shall be limited to ten thousand dollars. The board's grant authority shall be  
10          cumulatively limited to one hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 116 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Egan

**Abstract:** Authorizes expenditures of the La. Military Family Assistance Fund to include payment for burial fees and costs for indigent veteran burials or their spouses.

Present law provides that money in the La. Military Family Assistance Fund shall be used solely for the following purposes:

- (1) To pay need-based claims of family members of activated military personnel or honorably discharged military personnel as authorized by the La. Military Family Assistance Board in the manner provided for in R.S. 46:123.
- (2) To provide for state administration of the program provided for in present law as determined by the board, not to exceed 5% of the total amount deposited into the fund each fiscal year.
- (3) To provide for the third party administrator's expenses in administration of the program provided for in present law, which shall not exceed 5% of the total amount deposited into the fund each fiscal year.
- (4) To pay transportation and other related costs of activated military personnel as authorized by the La. Military Family Assistance Board.
- (5) To conduct outreach activities for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- (6) To pay for educational benefits for children, spouses, and surviving spouses of veterans in accordance with R.S. 29:288.

Proposed law retains present law and further authorizes money in the fund for payment for burial fees and costs for deceased indigent veterans or their spouses and for payment of sums necessary for expenses of eligible beneficiaries under present law.

Proposed law provides for annual grants to be issued by the La. Military Family Assistance Board. Limits the grants to \$10,000 per year. Further sets requirements for applications, reports, repayments and audits by the legislative auditor.

(Adds R.S. 46:122(B)(7) and (8) and (C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Provide that payment for burial fees and costs may be paid for the spouses of deceased indigent veterans.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide for the La. Military Family Assistance Board to issue annual grants in amounts limited to \$10,000.

2. Provide for application requirements for the grants, report requirements, repayment terms, and authority for audits by the legislative auditor.