

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 175

BY REPRESENTATIVES HEBERT, ADAMS, BOUDREAUX, COX, FONTENOT,  
HORTON, AND WILEY

LOTTERY: Creates the Veterans Service Grant Board and provides for allocation of lottery  
proceeds

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:9031 and 9032, relative to the lottery; to create the Veterans Service Grant  
3 Board; to provide for the duties and functions of the board; to provide for the  
4 Veterans Service Grant Fund; to provide relative to proceeds deposited into the fund;  
5 to provide for disbursements to applicants; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 47:9031 and 9032 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §9031. Veterans Service Grant Board; disbursement of funds

9 A. The Veterans Service Grant Board, hereafter referred to as the "veterans  
10 board", is hereby created to be solely responsible for the disbursement of the funds  
11 in the Veterans Service Grant Fund to programs or entities with the purpose of  
12 bettering the lives of veterans in this state. Veterans board members shall serve  
13 without compensation and shall not require confirmation by the Senate.

14 B. The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall serve as  
15 chairman until the first meeting of the veterans board, at which time the veterans  
16 board shall elect a chairman and vice chairman. The chairman and vice chairman  
17 shall be elected annually.

18 C. The veterans board shall meet annually in person to review submitted  
19 grant applications and disburse grant funds to selected applicants.

- 1           D. The veterans board shall consist of the following members:
- 2           (1) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee.
- 3           (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- 4           (3) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.
- 5           (4) The state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of
- 6 Louisiana, or his designee.
- 7           (5) The commander of the American Legion, Department of Louisiana, or
- 8 his designee.
- 9           (6) The state commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department
- 10 of Louisiana, or his designee.
- 11           (7) A veteran of the United States Armed Forces appointed by the governor.
- 12           E. A majority of the veterans board shall constitute a quorum. Voting by
- 13 proxy, by representation, or by mail is prohibited.
- 14           F. The veterans board shall meet once a year to distribute proceeds received
- 15 from the Department of Treasury to the Veterans Service Grant Fund in the form of
- 16 one-time grants. Applicants shall be one of the following:
- 17           (1) Tax-exempt under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
- 18 in existence for three years.
- 19           (2) An accredited college or university in this state.
- 20           (3) The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC).
- 21           (4) An established Veterans Court program pursuant to R.S. 13:5361 et seq.
- 22           (5) A police jury or municipal governing authority seeking to improve parish
- 23 veterans' service offices pursuant to R.S. 29:262.
- 24           G. The veterans board shall only consider applicants who seek to improve
- 25 the needs of veterans and their families. Each one-time grant shall be made in
- 26 amounts up to fifty thousand dollars. Applicants are not restricted from reapplying
- 27 for future grants.

§9032. Veterans Service Grant Fund

There is hereby created in the state treasury the Veterans Service Grant Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund". After satisfying the requirements of the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer shall deposit into the fund five hundred thousand dollars pursuant to Article XII, Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

All unexpended and unencumbered principal monies in the fund at the end of the year shall be deposited in and credited to the minimum foundation program.

Principal monies in the fund shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and any interest earned on such investment shall be deposited in and credited to the fund.

## 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)]

HB 175 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Hebert

**Abstract:** Creates the Veterans Service Grant Board and provides for allocation and distribution of lottery proceeds for the benefit of La. veterans.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:9031) creates the Veterans Service Grant Bd. and provides for composition, recordkeeping, meeting requirements, and other matters relative to board functions.

Proposed law requires the Veterans Service Grant Bd. to disburse funds through one-time grants. Further provides certain criteria for grant applicants.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:9032) provides for the Veterans Service Grant Fund (Fund) and requires the treasurer to deposit \$500,000, pursuant to the Constitution of La., into the Fund. Further requires the treasurer to invest proceeds in the same manner as monies in the state general fund.

Proposed law requires unused principal funds at the end of each year to be deposited in and credited to the minimum foundation program. Further requires interest earned on investments to remain in the Fund.

(Adds R.S. 47:9031 and 9032)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Delete provisions creating a new lottery game to benefit veterans.

2. Change the name of the board from the "Veterans Game Board" to the "Veterans Service Grant Board".
3. Change the initial chairman of the board from the chief executive officer of the La. Lottery Corp. to the secretary of the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
4. Delete language relative to the deposit of all generated lottery proceeds into the Fund to instead require a deposit of \$500,000 pursuant to the Constitution of La.
5. Require all unexpended and unencumbered monies to be deposited and credited to the minimum foundation program instead of being returned to the Dept. of Treasury.
6. Make technical changes.