

IC 10-17-12

Chapter 12. Military Family Relief Fund

IC 10-17-12-0.5

Application

Sec. 0.5. This chapter applies after December 31, 2006.
As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.

IC 10-17-12-0.7

Purpose of fund

Sec. 0.7. (a) The purpose of the fund established in section 8 of this chapter is to provide:

- (1) short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for hardships that result from the qualified service members' active duty service; and
- (2) funding for:
 - (A) grants for reimbursement for training; and
 - (B) the purchase of computer equipment and software;

for county and city veterans' service officers.

(b) Funding for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) must be provided from the amount transferred to the fund under section 13 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.50-2009, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.169-2013, SEC.4.

IC 10-17-12-1

"Active duty"

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "active duty" means full-time service in the:

- (1) armed forces; or
- (2) National Guard;

for a period that exceeds thirty (30) consecutive days.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.50-2009, SEC.2.

IC 10-17-12-2

"Armed forces"

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces" includes the active or reserve components of the following:

- (1) The United States Army.
- (2) The United States Navy.
- (3) The United States Marine Corps.
- (4) The United States Air Force.
- (5) The United States Coast Guard.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.50-2009, SEC.3.

IC 10-17-12-3

Repealed

(Repealed by P.L.113-2010, SEC.170.)

IC 10-17-12-3.5

"Commission"

Sec. 3.5. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the Indiana veterans' affairs commission established by IC 10-17-13-4. *As added by P.L.113-2010, SEC.76.*

IC 10-17-12-4

"Department"

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the Indiana department of veterans' affairs established by IC 10-17-1-2. *As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.*

IC 10-17-12-5

"Director"

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "director" refers to the director of veterans' affairs. *As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.*

IC 10-17-12-5.5

"Dependent"

Sec. 5.5. As used in this chapter, "dependent" has the meaning set forth in 37 U.S.C. 401, as in effect on January 1, 2009. *As added by P.L.50-2009, SEC.4.*

IC 10-17-12-6

"Fund"

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the military family relief fund established by section 8 of this chapter. *As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.*

IC 10-17-12-7

"National guard"

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "national guard" means:

- (1) the Indiana Army National Guard; or
- (2) the Indiana Air National Guard.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.

IC 10-17-12-7.5

"Qualified service member"

Sec. 7.5. As used in this chapter, "qualified service member" means an individual who is:

- (1) an Indiana resident;
- (2) a member of:
 - (A) the armed forces; or
 - (B) the National Guard; and
- (3) serving on active duty:
 - (A) after September 11, 2001; and
 - (B) during a time of national conflict or war.

As added by P.L.50-2009, SEC.5.

IC 10-17-12-8

Establishment of the fund; eligibility

Sec. 8. (a) The military family relief fund is established to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified service members. The fund may also be used to provide for grants for reimbursement for training and for computer equipment and software for county and city veterans' service officers.

(b) Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, the commission shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for assistance as described in subsection (a). The director shall each year provide a report to the budget committee concerning the grant program under this chapter.

(c) A qualified service member or the qualified service member's dependent may be eligible to receive assistance from the fund for up to three (3) years after the earlier of the following:

(1) The date the qualified service member's active duty service ends.

(2) The date, as established by presidential proclamation or by law, of the cessation of the national conflict or war with respect to which the qualified service member is eligible to receive assistance under section 7.5(3)(B) of this chapter.

(d) The commission shall administer the fund.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.144-2007, SEC.12; P.L.151-2007, SEC.2; P.L.3-2008, SEC.86; P.L.50-2009, SEC.6; P.L.113-2010, SEC.77; P.L.54-2012, SEC.1; P.L.169-2013, SEC.5.

IC 10-17-12-9

Funding sources; investment; nonreversion

Sec. 9. (a) The fund consists of the following:

(1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.

(2) Donations to the fund.

(3) Interest.

(4) Money transferred to the fund from other funds.

(5) Annual supplemental fees collected under IC 9-29-5-38.5.

(6) Money from any other source authorized or appropriated for the fund.

(b) The commission shall transfer the money in the fund not currently needed to provide assistance or meet the obligations of the fund to the veterans' affairs trust fund established by IC 10-17-13-3.

(c) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund or to any other fund.

(d) There is annually appropriated to the commission for the purposes of this chapter all money in the fund not otherwise appropriated to the commission for the purposes of this chapter.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.144-2007, SEC.13; P.L.50-2009, SEC.7; P.L.113-2010, SEC.78.

IC 10-17-12-10

Authority to adopt rules

Sec. 10. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the provision of grants under this chapter. The rules adopted under this section must address the following:

- (1) Uniform need determination procedures.
- (2) Eligibility criteria.
- (3) Application procedures.
- (4) Selection procedures.
- (5) Coordination with other assistance programs.
- (6) Other areas in which the department determines that rules are necessary to ensure the uniform administration of the grant program under this chapter.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.144-2007, SEC.14; P.L.113-2010, SEC.79.

IC 10-17-12-11

Authority to request appropriations

Sec. 11. The director or a member of the commission may make a request to the general assembly for an appropriation to the fund.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.144-2007, SEC.15; P.L.113-2010, SEC.80.

IC 10-17-12-12

Donations; Internet capability

Sec. 12. The director shall establish the capability to receive donations to the fund from the public on the department's Internet site.

As added by P.L.58-2006, SEC.8.

IC 10-17-12-13

Appropriation; grants

Sec. 13. (a) The commission shall transfer one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the veterans' affairs trust fund established by IC 10-17-13-3 to the fund.

(b) There is appropriated to the commission one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the fund for:

- (1) grants for training county and city veterans' service officers under IC 10-17-1-10; and
- (2) the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used by the city and county veterans' service officers.

(c) A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant for reimbursement for training expenses associated with service officer training, including travel and incidental expenses of eligible county and city veterans' service officers seeking initial or renewal service officer accreditation. A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant under this subsection in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for reimbursement. The commission shall set standards for the reimbursement grants. A county or city veterans' service officer may apply to the commission for a reimbursement grant, and the commission may make a grant

based on the commission's review of an application.

(d) A county or city that employs a veterans' service officer may receive a grant, in an amount not to exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200), for reimbursement for computer equipment and software to enable the veterans' service officer to access national data bases for benefits for veterans. The commission shall set standards for the review of grants for the purchase of computer equipment and software under this subsection. A county or city may apply to the commission for a grant for reimbursement for the purchase of computer equipment and software, and the commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an application.

As added by P.L.169-2013, SEC.6.