

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5538

Department of Veterans' Affairs

SB 5538 is the budget bill for the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The mission of the Department is to serve and honor veterans through leadership, advocacy, and strong partnerships.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee approved a total funds budget of \$544.3 million and 104 positions. Lottery Funds expenditure limitation of \$19.2 million, supported with dedicated Measure 96 lottery revenues, is included in the budget and represents a 29.6% increase from the current service level. The budget also includes \$10.3 million of General Fund for veterans' services and debt service on outstanding bonds.

The Subcommittee recommendation includes resources and positions to allow the agency to serve as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Approving Agency for veterans' education programs; Lottery Funds support for Tribal Representative programs and partnerships; renewed funding for the Campus Veteran Grant Program; increased pass-through funding for the National Service Organizations; and funding to establish a Veterans' Health Care Transportation Grant Program. The Subcommittee also approved key performance measures and targets, including the creation of a new measure to track progress towards achieving housing stability for veterans.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 5538 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.