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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 92
(l_136_0612-2)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 92's Bill Analysis

Version: In Senate Ways and Means

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Patton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill will increase expenditures by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) by up to $63.3 million annually to pay stipends under a Disabled Veterans Assistance Program.
- ODVS will incur one-time and ongoing costs to establish and administer a Disabled Veteran Assistance Program including rulemaking, application certification, maintaining a list of recipients, and processing payments made under the Program.

Detailed Analysis

The bill establishes the Disabled Veterans Assistance Program under which a permanently and totally disabled veteran would receive a perpetual monthly stipend of $100, or the surviving spouse of such a veteran would receive a perpetual monthly stipend of $70. The Program would be administered by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS).

Monthly stipend costs

LBO estimates an annual stipend cost of up to $63.3 million based on 41,273 eligible permanently and totally disabled veterans and 16,353 eligible surviving spouses statewide. The table below details the estimated monthly and annual costs for the stipends. Please note that additional eligibility requirements under the amendment, including a five-year residency requirement, may reduce the actual number of eligible veterans and surviving spouses and the resulting annual costs. Further, future cost estimates may change based on population shifts or adjustments to disability ratings. The costs shown reflect current conditions.

For the number of veterans eligible for the $100 stipend, LBO staff relied on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Open Data's FY 2025 county-level compensation dataset for Ohio and used the count of recipients at 100% combined service-connected disability

rating (41,273). For the number of surviving spouses eligible for the $70 stipend, LBO relied on the VA's National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) Ohio statewide Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) total and applied VA's Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Report FY 2025 national DIC spouse share (i.e., 96.5%) to produce a spouse-only estimate (16,353).

Disabled Veteran Assistance Program Annual Cost Estimates

Stipend Type	Stipend Amount	Number Eligible	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Disabled Veteran (100% Service-Connected Disability)	$100	41,273	$4,127,300	$49,527,600
Surviving Spouse	$70	16,353	$1,144,710	$13,736,520
Total	--	**57,626**	**$5,272,010**	**$63,264,120**

Department of Veterans Services

ODVS will incur one-time and ongoing costs to establish and administer the Disabled Veteran Assistance Program including rulemaking, application certification, maintaining a list of recipients, and processing payments made under the Program. LBO presumes that ODVS may need to hire additional administrative staff to oversee the Program.[1] The amendment does not provide for an appropriation for the costs of providing the stipends nor for ongoing administrative expenses for operating the Program.

Currently, ODVS does not provide a service like the Disabled Veteran Assistance Program, though they do share federal and local support and resources to Ohio veterans. The Department's primary charge is to actively identify, connect with, and advocate for veterans and their families. The Department operates two veterans homes in the state, and is the only state agency dedicated to providing long-term care solely to wartime veterans. H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly appropriated $203.5 million to ODVS for the administration and operation of the two veterans homes, representing 93.5% of the Department's total budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

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[1] ODVS has had prior administrative experience related to the Veteran's Bonus Program which was approved by Ohio voters in November 2009 and recently came to an end. That program was funded through the issuance of bonds.