

Military Family Relief

This Act establishes a military family relief fund to provide grants for essential family support expenses to the families of Indiana residents who are members of the National Guard or the armed forces reserves and have been called to active duty after September 11, 2001. It allows the state veterans' affairs commission to establish the eligibility criteria and application and selection procedures for the grants. The bill requires the state director of veterans' affairs to report to the budget committee before August 1, 2006, on the grant determination procedures to be used.

This bill creates a veteran license plate and specifies that the plate is not a special group recognition license plate. The legislation provides for the collection of a \$15 annual supplemental fee at the time a vehicle plated with a veteran license plate is registered, which is to be deposited in the military family relief fund. The Act creates a support our troops license plate and specifies that the plate is not a special recognition license plate. It provides for the collection of a \$20 annual supplemental fee at the time a vehicle plated with a support our troops license plate is registered, which is to be deposited in the military family relief fund.

Submitted as:

Indiana

Senate Enrolled Act 75

Status: Enacted into law in 2006.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act is entitled "An Act to Establish a Military Family Relief
2 Fund.]
3

4 Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

5 "Active duty" means full-time service in:

- 6 (1) a reserve component of the armed forces; or
7 (2) the national guard; for a period that exceeds [thirty (30)] consecutive days in a
8 calendar year.

9 "Armed forces" includes the reserve components of the following:

- 10 (1) The United States Army;
11 (2) The United States Navy;
12 (3) The United States Marine Corps;
13 (4) The United States Air Force; and
14 (5) The United States Coast Guard.

15 "Commission" refers to the [veterans' affairs commission] established by [insert citation.]

16 "Department" refers to the state [department of veterans' affairs] established by [insert
17 citation.]

18 "Director" refers to the [director of veterans' affairs].

19 "Fund" refers to the [Military Family Relief Fund] established by [section 3] of this Act.

20 "National guard" means:

- 21 (1) the (state) Army National Guard; or
22 (2) the (state) Air National Guard.
23

24 Section 3. [*Military Family Relief Fund.*]

25 (a) A [Military Family Relief Fund] is established beginning [January 1, 2007], to provide
26 assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, and other essential
27 family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for families of residents who are:

28 (1) members of:

29 (A) a reserve component of the Armed forces; or

30 (B) the National Guard; and

31 (2) called to active duty after [September 11, 2001].

32 (b) The [department] shall expend the money in the [Military Family Relief Fund]
33 exclusively to provide grants for assistance as described in subsection (a).

34 (c) The [director] shall administer the [Fund].

35 (d) The [Fund] consists of the following:

36 (1) Appropriations made by the [general assembly].

37 (2) Donations to the [Fund].

38 (3) Interest as provided in subsection (e).

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

40 (5) Annual supplemental fees collected under [insert citation].

41 (6) Money from any other source authorized or appropriated for the [Fund].

42 (e) The [treasurer] of state shall invest the money in the [Fund] not currently needed to
43 meet the obligations of the [Fund] in the same manner as other public money may be invested.
44 Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the [Fund].

45 (f) Money in the [Fund] at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the [State
46 General Fund] or to any other [Fund].

47 (g) There is annually appropriated to the [department] for the purposes of this Act all
48 money in the [Fund] not otherwise appropriated to the [department] for the purposes of this Act.

49 (h) The [commission] may adopt rules for the provision of grants under this Act. The rules
50 adopted under this section must address the following:

51 (1) Uniform need determination procedures;

52 (2) Eligibility criteria;

53 (3) Application procedures;

54 (4) Selection procedures;

55 (5) Coordination with other assistance programs; and

56 (6) Other areas in which the [department] determines that rules are necessary to
57 ensure the uniform administration of the grant program under this Act.

58 (i) The [director] or a [member of the commission] may make a request to the [General
59 Assembly] for an appropriation to the [Fund].

60 (j) The [director] shall establish the capability to receive donations to the [Fund] from the
61 public on the [department's] Internet site.

62
63 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

64
65 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

66
67 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]