

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: October 17, 2016 (2:02pm)

LCvet2

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs

Interim Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act providing an appropriation for grants to local entities for veteran suicide prevention; and providing an effective date."

WHEREAS, the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee examined the high rate of suicide among veterans in Montana, which is consistently one of the highest rates nationally, and that of the 555 suicides in Montana between January 1, 2014, and March 1, 2016, 121 were by veterans; and

WHEREAS, the committee learned about the need to address this issue through the efforts of local entities who connect individually with veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the committee voted unanimously to recommend a committee bill to provide funding for grants for local efforts to prevent veteran suicides in Montana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund \$ _____ to the department of administration to be used by the state suicide prevention officer for grants under 53-21-1101(2)(v) to local entities for

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the prevention of suicides by Montana veterans, including American Indian veterans.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. {standard} Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective on July 1, 2017.

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