

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

HB 5205 — Department of Veterans' Affairs

by Appropriations Committee and Rep. Brodeur

The bill revises the personal needs allowance from \$35 to \$105 per month for residents of a state veteran domiciliary or nursing home. The increased allowance makes it possible for residents of these state veterans' homes who receive a pension, compensation, or gratuity from the U.S. Government or any other income to retain up to \$105 per month for his or her personal needs before contributing to his or her home maintenance and support assessment.

The bill terminates the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund (trust fund) and, in so doing, provides for the disposition of balances in, revenues of, and all outstanding appropriations of the trust fund; and prescribes procedures for the termination of the trust fund.

The bill provides that all proceeds of the terminated trust fund be transferred to the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, and incorporates conforming revisions to related statutes to reflect this change.

The bill expands the allowable uses of funds within the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund to include supporting program operations that benefit veterans or the operations, maintenance, or construction of nursing homes.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 108-2