

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0012

Veterans' mental health appropriations.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to military affairs; providing
2 appropriations to address mental health and substance abuse
3 problems of military personnel and their families
4 associated with participation in military conflicts as
5 specified; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) There is appropriated eight hundred forty-eight
12 thousand dollars (\$848,000.00) from the general fund to the
13 department of health for the biennium beginning July 1,
14 2008 and ending June 30, 2010. The department of health
15 shall use the funds appropriated under this section as
16 follows:

1

2 (i) Four hundred forty thousand dollars
3 (\$440,000.00) to contract with two (2) persons whose duties
4 shall include the detection and identification of soldiers
5 returning from duty in the Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts
6 and their families who may be in need of mental health or
7 substance abuse treatment services. The contractors shall
8 assist eligible persons identified as having potential or
9 actual mental health or substance abuse problems to obtain
10 assessments of and treatment for the mental health or
11 substance abuse problems;

12

13 (ii) Sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$68,000.00)
14 to reimburse physicians who provide assessment screenings
15 to soldiers and their families under paragraph (i) of this
16 subsection and who are not otherwise paid for the screening
17 tool used in the assessment. The funds under this
18 paragraph shall be used only to pay for the screening tool
19 used by the physician. Reimbursements under this paragraph
20 shall be paid to the physicians providing the assessment
21 screenings under a voucher system administered by the
22 department;

23

1 (iii) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars
2 (\$250,000.00) to reimburse soldiers and their families
3 under paragraph (i) of this subsection for travel,
4 childcare and other expenses necessary to access mental
5 health or substance abuse treatment resources, when the
6 expenses are not otherwise reimbursed from another source.
7 Reimbursements under this paragraph shall be paid to the
8 soldier under a voucher system administered by the
9 department;

10

11 (iv) Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) to
12 provide training to physicians and other health care
13 providers on war related injuries and illnesses to ensure
14 the use of best practices in Wyoming;

15

16 (v) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to
17 provide training to community leaders and employers to
18 improve reintegration and transition into the community and
19 employment for soldiers under paragraph (i) of this
20 subsection.

21

22 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2008.

23

24

(END)