

REFERENCE TITLE: veterans' donations fund; grants

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1685

Introduced by
Senator Gowan

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 41-608, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
VETERANS' DONATIONS FUND.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 41-608, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 41-608. Veterans' donations fund; grants; annual report

5 A. The veterans' donations fund is established consisting of
6 monies, gifts and contributions donated to the department and monies
7 deposited pursuant to sections 28-2414, 28-2428, 28-2431, 28-2447,
8 28-2454, 28-2470.10, 28-2473, 28-2474, 28-2475, 28-2476 and 43-620. The
9 department shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are continuously
10 appropriated. The monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of
11 section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The department
12 shall adopt rules or policies for grants of less than \$5,000 that
13 encourage as much competition as practicable.

14 B. The director or the director's designee may solicit and receive
15 donations, including in-kind donations, from the public for veterans. The
16 director shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, the
17 monetary donations in the veterans' donations fund. Monies in the fund
18 are subject to state auditing procedures. Except for monies deposited
19 pursuant to sections 28-2431 and 28-2447, the donations may be used for
20 the benefit of the veterans within this state as grants, subject to
21 chapter 24 of this title, if applicable.

22 C. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
23 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
24 section 28-2431, subsection C. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
25 for the construction and maintenance of the enduring freedom memorial
26 authorized pursuant to section 41-1363 for placement in Wesley Bolin
27 Plaza.

28 D. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
29 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
30 section 28-2447, subsection F. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
31 for the benefit of women veterans in this state, including providing
32 shelter to homeless women veterans as grants, subject to chapter 24 of
33 this title, if applicable.

34 E. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
35 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
36 section 28-2454, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount shall
37 be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to section
38 28-2454, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate monies from
39 the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section 501(c)(3)
40 of the United States internal revenue code for federal income tax purposes
41 and that is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based
42 scholarships to children of United States military members. The
43 foundation must:

44 1. Have been in existence for at least fifty-two years.

1 2. Have provided more than thirty-three thousand scholarships that
2 are valued at almost \$90,000,000.

3 3. Have a mission that includes honoring marines and educating
4 their children.

5 4. Award scholarship monies to children of marines and navy
6 corpsmen who were killed or wounded in combat or who have demonstrated
7 financial need.

8 F. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
9 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
10 section 28-2470.10, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount
11 shall be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to
12 section 28-2470.10, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate
13 monies from the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section
14 501(c)(3) of the United States internal revenue code for federal income
15 tax purposes. The foundation must:

16 1. Have been in existence for at least twenty years.

17 2. Have a mission that includes providing college scholarships to:

18 (a) The sons and daughters of those who have served the United
19 States honorably as soldiers in the United States army.

20 (b) The spouses of enlisted soldiers on active duty in the United
21 States army.

22 3. Envision increasing its fundraising and visibility to encourage
23 more applicants to apply for scholarships and to provide larger
24 scholarships to an increasing number of deserving applicants to both:

25 (a) Reward army families for the sacrifices that army soldiers make
26 every day to serve their nation.

27 (b) Help the spouses and children of army soldiers become leaders
28 in society.

29 4. Award scholarship monies to:

30 (a) Children of former United States army members who were killed
31 while serving in the United States army or who received an honorable
32 discharge or medical discharge.

33 (b) Children of **UNITED STATES ARMY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING SERVING**
34 **IN** regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty national guard
35 ~~United States army members in good standing~~.

36 (c) Spouses of ~~enlisted~~ **UNITED STATES ARMY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**
37 **SERVING IN** regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty
38 national guard ~~United States army members in good standing~~.

39 G. The director shall inventory and account for the use of any
40 tangible personal property donated to the fund.

41 H. On notice from the director, the state treasurer shall invest
42 and divest monies in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies
43 earned from investment shall be credited to the fund.

1 I. THE DEPARTMENT:

2 1. MAY NOT DENY OR REFUSE TO AWARD A GRANT TO AN APPLICANT SOLELY
3 BECAUSE THE APPLICANT IS A PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENT.

4 2. SHALL AWARD GRANT MONIES OF AT LEAST \$2,000,000 OR THE BALANCE
5 IN THE FUND ANNUALLY, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

6 3. SHALL PUBLISH A LIST OF GRANT RECIPIENTS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
7 WEBSITE.

8 J. BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
9 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF VETERANS
10 WHO RECEIVED SERVICES THROUGH ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE AWARDED GRANTS
11 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND
12 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF
13 THIS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.