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# VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

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2016 Session

## Budget Bill - HB29 (Introduced)

Bill Order » Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs » Item 461

Department of Veterans Services

Item 461	First Year - FY2015	Second Year - FY2016
<b>Veterans Benefit Services (46700)</b>	<b>\$8,782,763</b>	<b>\$11,797,591</b>
Case Management Services for Veterans Benefits (46701)	\$5,235,886	\$6,286,087
Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services (46702)	\$3,546,877	\$3,737,504
Veterans Employment and Transition Services (46703)	\$0	\$1,774,000
Fund Sources:		
General	\$7,604,463	\$10,519,291
Special	\$25,000	\$0
Dedicated Special Revenue	\$375,000	\$600,000
Federal Trust	\$778,300	\$678,300

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Authority: Title 2.2, Chapters 20, 24, 26, and 27, Code of Virginia.

A. 1. Out of this appropriation, up to \$500,000 from the general fund the second year shall be provided to address the costs associated with support of a grant program to create employment opportunities for veterans by assisting Virginia employers in hiring and retaining veterans. The Department of Veterans Services shall develop program guidelines to ensure that the funding mechanism effectively attracts maximum participation of firms to increase the number of veterans hired.

2. Such funds shall be used to provide grants beginning July 1, 2015, to any business located in Virginia with 300 or fewer employees which has hired a veteran on or after July 1, 2014, with the following additional requirements: (a) each such veteran shall have been hired within ~~one~~ five years of the date of his or her discharge from active military service and *has been unemployed for at least one year*; (b) *and* each such veteran shall have been continuously employed by the business in a full-time job for at least one year.; ~~and (c) each such veteran shall have been paid at least the prevailing average wage of the jurisdiction in which the job is located.~~ The grant shall equal \$1,000 per qualifying business for each veteran who has been hired, and who qualifies under the provisions of this item, up to a maximum grant of \$10,000 per business in the fiscal year.

3. Grants shall be issued in the order that each completed eligible application is received. In the event that the amount of eligible grants requested in a fiscal year exceeds the funds available in the Fund, such grants shall be paid in the next fiscal year in which funds are available.

4. The Department shall report no later than October 1 of each fiscal year after the program is implemented on the demand for the program, and any shortage of funding resulting from requests in excess of the available appropriation.