



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

September 30, 2019

Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Senators,

I have signed Enrolled Senate Bill 144, which makes appropriations for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. I have, however, disapproved five items pursuant to article 5, section 19 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. The specific item vetoes are detailed in the attached copy of the bill that has been filed with the secretary of state.

To provide direction regarding the implementation of this appropriations act, I note the following:

- Section 404 violates article 4, section 25 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and is therefore unenforceable. Moreover, I note that the D.J. Jacobetti home for veterans already meets the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services certification standards, and the construction of a new Grand Rapids home for veterans—which will also meet CMS certification standards—is underway.
- Section 215 violates article 4, section 24 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and is therefore unenforceable.
- Sections 215 and 409, as well as subsection (2) of section 301 and subsection (2)(a) of section 406, violate the separation of powers required by article 3, section 2, among other provisions of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and are therefore unenforceable.
- Finally, those provisions of this bill that express merely the intent, advice, preferences, or wishes of the legislature do not impose conditions upon appropriations and are non-binding.

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Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Michigan House of Representatives
The Honorable Jocelyn Benson