



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

ROBERT M. KOCZERA
REPRESENTATIVE
11TH BRISTOL DISTRICT
119 JARRY STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745
HOME: (508) 998-8041

Vice-Chair
Personnel and Administration

Committees
Economic Development & Emerging Technologies
Revenue

ROOM 448, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2582
FAX (617) 722-2879
Rep.RobertKoczera@hou.state.ma.us

January 25, 2007

Councilor Leo Pimental, Council President
Members of the City Council
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear President Pimental and City Council Members:

We are writing in response to the Council's motion for a "special license plate" for those who served in the military. We thought it would be helpful to provide an account of the series of veteran related plates and state benefits provided to those who served in the military.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles issues ten (10) veterans' series license plates. They include a general veteran flag plate, numerous plates for recipients of medals of valor and others for gold star families, pearl harbor survivors, etc. The Registry charges a fee for the general veteran plate, from which the proceeds benefit the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. Veterans eligible for the remainder of the above listed plates are not charged the additional fee. Eligible disabled and ex-prisoners of war veterans are exempt from having to pay for license plates and registration renewal fee. They are also exempt from motor vehicle excise for one personal vehicle as well as sales tax for one personal vehicle.

In addition to the benefits provided by Registry of Motor Vehicles, eligible Massachusetts veterans are entitled to an array of other benefits. They include tuition waivers at state institutions of higher learning, property tax exemptions, and civil service preference to name a few. A more complete description of the benefits provided by our

CITY CLERK

2007 FEB - 7 P 3:27

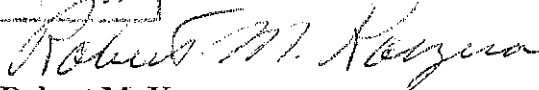
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

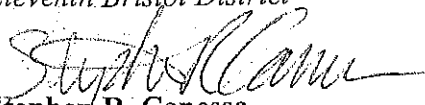
City Council
January 25, 2007
Page 2

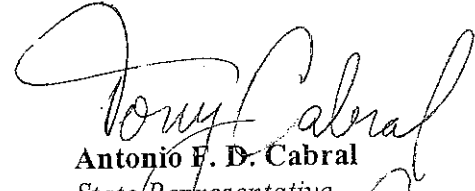
state can be obtained from the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and from the Department of veteran Services

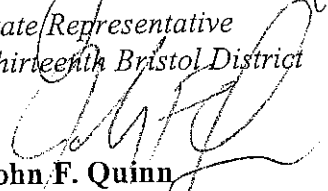
The benefits provided by the Commonwealth to those who served in the military are extensive. Thank you for expressing your interest in supporting Massachusetts veterans.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Koczera
State Representative
Eleventh Bristol District


Stephen R. Canessa
State Representative
Twelfth Bristol District


Antonio F. D. Cabral
State Representative
Thirteenth Bristol District


John F. Quinn
State Representative
Ninth Bristol District

IN CITY COUNCIL, February 08, 2007

Rule 42 Waived – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

Referred to Dan LeBlanc, Veterans Agent and the City Council President to draft a letter and sketch from Mr. Leblanc and send letter and original Motion back to State Representatives.

Presented to the Mayor for approval February 12, 2007.

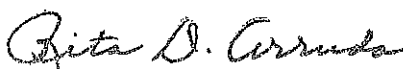
Approved February 12, 2007.

Rita D. Arruda, City Clerk

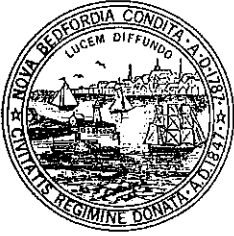
Rita D. Arruda, City Clerk

Scott W. Lang, Mayor

a true copy, attest:



City Clerk



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

133 William Street • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
508 979-1455 • Fax 508 979-1451

Leo R. Pimental
City Council President - 2007
Councillor Ward Six

February 14, 2007

Director of Veterans Benefits and Services Donat "Dan" LeBlanc
Quest Center - 1213 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Enclosed, please find correspondence from Representatives Koczera, Cabral, Canessa and Quinn, responding to Council Motion for a "special license plate" for those who served in the military, stating the Registry of Motor Vehicles issues ten (1) Veterans' series plates and providing further info regarding same, which was referred to you and me to draft a letter, include a sketch from you and sent the letter and sketch and original motion (also enclosed) back to the State Representatives.

Since you were in attendance at the meeting, you must have realized, from the debate that took place on the Council Floor, that the State Representatives misunderstood what the New Bedford City Council was requesting. We did not want yet another Veterans' plate. The Council wanted a plate that "regular citizens" could purchase with part of the proceeds from its sales going to SUPPORT our Veterans (for costs of medical fees, etc.) throughout the Commonwealth, much like plates issued to support children and animal causes, etc.

I am requesting that you submit any ideas as to what you would like the plates to look like and/or read, and include a sketch, if you wish. I will then resubmit the original motion with a letter of explanation and your ideas (to include sketch, if any.)

Thank you for your assistance with this. If there are any questions, or if you want to get together for discussion/brainstorming, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leo R Pimental
City Council President-2007
City Councillor - Ward Six

LRP:ROS (DanLeBlancspllicplate.reqforsketch.let)

Enclosures

cc: File

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 448**

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT M. KOCZERA

Telephone number (617) 722-2582

Fax number (617) 722-2879

To: Mr. Dan Le Blanc, Director
New Bedford Veteran Services
(508) 979-1736

From: Tobias M. Paulo for Rep. Koczera

Subject: Information as discussed with this morning over
the telephone

Number of Pages 10 (Including Cover Page)

The General Laws of Massachusetts

[Search the Laws](#)

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

TITLE XIV. PUBLIC WAYS AND WORKS

CHAPTER 90. MOTOR VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT

MOTOR VEHICLES

Chapter 90: Section 2F. Distinctive registration plates; submission of applications; eligible organizations

Go To:
[Next Section](#)
[Previous Section](#)
[Chapter Table of Contents](#)
[MGL Search Page](#)
[General Court Home](#)
[Mass.gov](#)

Section 2F. (a) The registrar shall design, issue and regulate the use of distinctive registration plates, subject to the following conditions: an organization sponsoring or requesting a distinctive registration plate shall post a bond in the amount of \$100,000 to secure the issuance of the distinctive plate. The organization or group shall also submit 1,500 individual applications requesting the distinctive registration plate on an application form determined by the registrar, and the application form shall include the name, address and signature of each individual requesting the distinctive registration plate. Each of the 1,500 applications shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable check in the amount of \$40. Upon the completion of the submission of the bond and the 1,500 individual applications, the organization or group requesting the distinctive registration plate shall submit a proposed design for the plate. The registrar shall approve the design within 90 days of its submission. After the registrar grants approval of the design, the registrar shall send the distinctive registration plate into production.

(b) A minimum of 3,000 distinctive registration plates shall be issued within 2 years of the issuance of the first distinctive registration plate in the series. Failure to reach the minimum by the end of the 2 year period shall result in the total or partial forfeiture of the bond. If total revenue generated by the distinctive registration plate is less than the established total cost to the commonwealth for issuing distinctive registration plates, an amount equivalent to the difference in revenues and costs shall be deposited from the bond into the General Fund. The remainder of the bond shall be returned to the organization or group that posted the bond.

(c) Distinctive registration plates to be considered by the registrar pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to, plates that will benefit the following agencies, charities, causes or nonprofit organizations: The Jimmy Fund for the purpose of assisting their efforts in cancer treatment, research and prevention; The New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, Inc.; Mini Fenway Park; The American Cancer Society for the purpose of assisting their efforts in cancer treatment, research and prevention; the establishment of a children's education fund to assist local cities and towns in purchasing textbooks for their school systems; the establishment of a library preservation trust fund to assist the commonwealth's public libraries in purchasing books, periodicals and other literature and equipment; the Black United Fund of Massachusetts; the establishment of a Diane Zamboni breast cancer research fund to be coordinated by the department of public health; the pharmacy assistance program; The Humane Coalition for the purposes of instituting animal control programs; The Rotary Foundation; The Springfield Library and Museum Association for the purposes of creating and supporting a Dr. Scuss Museum in the city of Springfield; The New England Chapter of Transplant Recipients International Organization, Inc. for supporting organ and tissue donation and outreach

efforts; the department of environmental management for the maintenance of historical vessels; the University of Massachusetts scholars fund and alumni fund; the establishment of an agricultural trust fund to promote and enhance the viability of agriculture; the establishment of a violence prevention education program to be coordinated by the department of education; an open space acquisition program to be coordinated by the executive office of environmental affairs; the Second Century Fund coordinated by the department of environmental management for the maintenance, preservation and operation of the state park system; the establishment of a fund to assist in the maintenance and preservation of historical monuments; the establishment of a youth hockey promotion fund to offset the costs of participating in youth hockey and promote improvement of parent and player behavior; the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Program and the Lazarus Program; the establishment of a Massachusetts AFL-CIO scholarship trust fund to promote the study of labor history and to provide scholarship assistance to Harvard University's trade union program; the establishment of a future of nursing fund to assist in efforts to address the shortage of nurses; the Massachusetts Firefighters Academy Trust Fund; the Power Linemen Fund for the further training of apprentices; the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund to be coordinated by the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts; the public school PTO/PTA Public School education fund; Massachusetts Firefighter Safety Fund; the University of Massachusetts Men's and Women's varsity gymnastic teams; the Old Colony Club for the purpose of restoring the Forefathers' monument; The Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation to benefit the fund for arts, culture and education; motorist safety as it pertains to bicyclists and sharing the road; the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for research into treatment and prevention of juvenile diabetes, the Cape Cod Baseball League; and Mini-Fenway Park, Inc. and cities and towns for the purpose of supporting local programs as organized by a single city or town.

(d) The registrar shall design, produce, issue and regulate the use of distinctive registration plates proposed by any agency, charity or nonprofit organization that has satisfactorily complied with the conditions and requirements set forth in subsection (a).

Appellate Tax Board.

1310-1000

For the operation of the appellate tax board; provided, that the board shall schedule hearings in Barnstable, Gardner, Lawrence, Milford, Northampton, Pittsfield, Springfield, Worcester and southeastern Massachusetts; and provided further, that the board shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means no later than December 1, 2006 on the number of hearings held at each location .. \$1,899,686

1310-1001

The appellate tax board may expend revenues up to a maximum of \$300,000 from fees collected; provided, that in order to accommodate discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the board may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system \$300,000

Department of Veterans' Services

1410-0010

For the operation of the department of veterans' services; provided, that the department may fund a housing specialist from this item; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended for the purpose of maintaining the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in the Green Hill park in Worcester; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended for the Korean War Veterans Committee of Massachusetts for the purpose of maintaining the Korean War Memorial located in the shipyard park of the Charlestown Navy Yard; and provided further, that the department may expend funds for the Glory 54th Brigade..... \$2,012,187

1410-0012

For services to veterans, including the maintenance and operation of outreach centers; provided, that the centers shall provide counseling to incarcerated veterans and to Vietnam era veterans and their families who may have been exposed to agent orange; provided further, that these centers shall also provide services to veterans who were discharged after September 11, 2001, and their families; provided further, that not less than \$292,480 shall be obligated for a contract with the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center in the city of Gardner; provided further, that not less than \$228,771 shall be obligated for a contract with the Veterans Benefit Clearinghouse in the Roxbury section of Boston; provided further, that not less than \$144,879 shall be obligated for a contract with the Puerto Rican Veterans Association of Massachusetts, Inc., in the city of Springfield; provided further, that not less than \$131,500 shall be obligated for a contract with Nam Vets Association of the Cape and Islands in the Hyannis section of the town of Barnstable; provided further, that not less than \$106,102 shall be obligated for a contract with the North Shore Veterans Counseling Center in the city of Beverly; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for veteran's services to be administered by the Falmouth veterans agent through the Falmouth Free

Clinic and Community Center; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be obligated for a contract with the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in the city of Haverhill; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Disabled American Veterans organization; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 be earmarked and obligated to Boston metropolitan area for a contract with the Puerto Rican Veterans Association of Massachusetts, Inc; provided further, that not less than \$90,000 shall be expended for the Veterans Association of Bristol County in Fall River; provided further, that not less than \$84,453 shall be obligated for a contract with the Metrowest/Metrosouth Outreach Center in the town of Framingham; provided further, that not less than \$30,000 shall be expended to United Veterans of America for the purpose of providing services to homeless veterans in Berkshire County; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be provided to the Middleboro Veterans' Outreach Center; provided further, that not less than \$30,000 shall be expended for the oral history project at the Morse Institute Library in Natick; and provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Mason Square Area Veterans Outreach Center, so-called, in the city of Springfield..... \$1,663,185

1410-0015

For the women veterans' outreach program..... \$42,282

1410-0018

The department may expend not more than \$300,000 for the maintenance and operation of Agawam and Winchendon veterans' cemeteries from revenue collected from fees, grants, gifts or other contributions to the cemeteries; prior appropriations continued \$300,000

1410-0100

For the revenue maximization project of the executive office of elder affairs to identify individuals eligible for veterans' pensions who are currently receiving home health care services \$98,000

1410-0250

For homelessness services; provided, that not less than \$652,395 shall be obligated for a contract with the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc., in the city of New Bedford; provided further, that not less than \$625,105 shall be obligated for a contract with the central Massachusetts Shelter for Homeless Veterans in the city of Worcester; provided further, that not less than \$220,000 shall be obligated for a contract with the United Veterans of America shelter in the town of Leeds; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be obligated for contracts with the Veterans Hospice Homestead in the city of Leominster and the Veterans Hospice in the town of Fitchburg; provided further, that not less than \$199,405 shall be obligated for a contract with Unity House in the city of Gardner; provided further, that not less than \$190,000 shall be obligated for a contract with Habitat P.L.U.S. in the city of Lynn; provided further, that \$100,350 shall be obligated for a contract with the Veterans Benefit Clearinghouse in the Dorchester section of the city of Boston; provided further, that not less than \$80,000 shall be provided for a contract with the Mansion in the city of Haverhill; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be obligated for a contract with the Transition House in the city of Springfield; provided further, that not less than \$73,350 shall be obligated for a contract with the Veterans Benefit

Clearinghouse in the Roxbury section of the city of Boston; provided further, that not less than \$51,975 shall be expended for a contract with the Springfield Bilingual Veterans Outreach Center for the operation and maintenance of a transitional housing unit at the YMCA of Springfield; provided further, that not less than \$37,350 shall be obligated for a contract with the Homestead in the town of Hyannis; provided further, that not less than \$42,000 shall be obligated for a contract with the Turner House located in the town of Williamstown; and provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for transitional services at Our Neighbor's Table in Amesbury..... \$2,571,930

1410-0251

For the maintenance and operation of homeless shelters and transitional housing for veterans at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans located in the city of Boston; provided, that not less than \$900,000 shall be expended for capital improvements..... \$3,176,703

1410-0300

For the payment of annuities to certain disabled veterans and the parents and un-remarried spouses of certain deceased veterans; provided, that the payments shall be made pursuant to section 6B of chapter 115 of the General Laws; provided further, that the department shall take reasonable steps to terminate payments upon the death of a recipient; provided further, that the department shall prorate annuity payments to ensure that the total payments in fiscal year 2007 shall not exceed the amount appropriated herein; and provided further, that the secretary of veterans' services shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means a report detailing the number of applications received for annuities offered under this program at the end of each fiscal quarter..... \$16,859,688

1410-0400

For reimbursing cities and towns for money paid for veterans' benefits and for payments to certain veterans under section 6 of chapter 115 of the General Laws; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 100 per cent of the amounts of veterans' benefits paid by cities and towns to residents of a soldiers' home shall be paid by the commonwealth to the several cities and towns; provided further, that pursuant to section 9 of said chapter 115, the department shall reimburse cities and towns for the cost of United States flags placed on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of veteran services may continue a training program for veterans' agents and directors of veterans' services in cities and towns; provided further, that the purpose of the training program shall be to maximize federal assistance available for veterans and to assure that the agents and directors receive uniform instruction on providing veterans and dependents with advice relative to procurement of state, federal and local benefits to which they are entitled, including employment, education, health care, retirement and other veterans' benefits; provided further, that the subject matter of the training program shall include benefits available under said chapter 115 and alternative resources, including those which are partially or wholly subsidized by the federal government, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability benefits, as well as federal

pension and compensation entitlements; provided further, that the secretary shall promulgate regulations for the training program; provided further, that upon successful participation by the veterans' agents or directors of veterans' services in the training program, the costs of the training program incurred by the several cities and towns shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth on or before November 10 following the fiscal year in which the costs were paid; provided further, that any person applying for veterans' benefits to pay for services available under chapter 118E of the General Laws, shall also apply for medical assistance under said chapter 118E to minimize cost of the commonwealth and its municipalities; provided further, that veterans' agents shall complete applications authorized by the executive office under said chapter 118E for any veteran, widow and dependent applying for medical assistance under said chapter 115; provided further, that the veterans' agent shall file the application for the veteran or dependent for assistance under said chapter 118E; provided further, that the executive office shall act on all said chapter 118E applications and advise the applicant and the veterans' agent of the applicant's eligibility for said chapter 118E healthcare; provided further, that the veterans' agent shall advise the applicant of the right to assistance for medical benefits under said chapter 115 pending approval of the application for assistance under said chapter 118E by the executive office; provided further, that the secretary may supplement healthcare pursuant to said chapter 118E with healthcare coverage under said chapter 115 if he determines that supplemental coverage is necessary to afford the veteran or dependent sufficient relief and support; provided further, that payments to or on behalf of a veteran or dependent pursuant to said chapter 115 shall not be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility under said chapter 118E; and provided further, that benefits awarded pursuant to section 6B of said chapter 115 shall be considered countable income

\$14,412,585

1410-0630

For the administration of the veterans' cemeteries in the towns of Agawam and Winchendon..... \$871,662

Reserves

1599-0035

For certain debt service contract assistance to the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority in accordance with section 39 of chapter 190 of the acts of 1982; provided, that the assistance shall be expended notwithstanding section 35J of chapter 10 of the General Laws \$2,531,761

The Governor disapproved the following item:

The Legislature overrode the Governor's veto

1599-0042

For a reserve to improve the quality of the commonwealth's early education and care system; provided, that payments from this reserve shall be distributed by the department of early education and care to increase reimbursement rates for subsidized early education and care; provided further, that the increases shall be directed to expenditures for salaries,

\$330,000 in revenues for expanded independent living and employment services from federal reimbursements received for services provided by the commission; provided, that for the purpose of accommodating discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenue and related expenditures, the department may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate reported in the state accounting system
\$330,000

4120-6000

For head injured services; provided, that the commission shall work with the executive office of health and human services to maximize federal reimbursement for clients receiving head injured services; provided further, that the commission shall expend funds on a 24-hour basis for persons with severe head injuries in western Massachusetts; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Cape Cod head injury program; and provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended on the Keeping Every Youth Safe program at the Massachusetts Brain Injury Association..... \$9,046,110

Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4125-0100

For the operation of and services provided by the Massachusetts commission for the deaf and hard of hearing \$5,539,165

4125-0101

For the Massachusetts commission for the deaf and hard of hearing; provided, that the commission may expend not more than \$175,000 in revenues from charges received on behalf of interpreter services and monies received from private grants, bequests, gifts or contributions; and provided further, that for the purpose of accommodating discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the commission may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system..... \$175,000

4125-0102

For the costs associated with the provision of interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing at State House public hearings and events \$12,000

Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts

4180-0100

For the maintenance and operation of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts located in the city of Chelsea, including a specialized unit for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease patients; provided, that graduates from the LPN school of nursing shall work in state-operated facilities for at least 1 year; provided further, that no fee, assessment or other charge shall be imposed upon or required of any person for any outpatient treatment, admission or hospitalization which exceeds the amount of fees charged in fiscal year 2006; and provided further, that no new fee, assessment or other charge shall be implemented in fiscal year 2007

except those associated with the use of telephones and
televisions..... \$24,416,752

4180-0200

The Soldier's Home in Massachusetts may expend not more than \$25,000 from fees collected from veterans in its care for the purposes of providing television and telephone services to residents; provided, that fees from the use of telephones and televisions shall only be expended for payments to vendors for said services..... \$25,000

4180-1100

The Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts may expend not more than \$300,661 in revenues for facility maintenance and patient care, including personnel costs; provided, that 60 per cent of all revenues generated pursuant to section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws through the purchase of license plates with the designation VETERAN by eligible veterans of the commonwealth, upon compensating the registry of motor vehicles for the cost associated with the license plates, shall be deposited into and for the purposes of this retained revenue account of the Soldiers' Home; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the Soldiers' Home may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system, prior appropriation continued..... \$300,661

Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

4190-0100

For the maintenance and operation of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, including the adult day care program, the Maguder House and the Chapin Mansion; provided, that no fee, assessment or other charge shall be imposed upon or required of any person for any outpatient treatment, admission or hospitalization which exceeds the amount of fees charged in fiscal year 2006; provided further, that no new fee, assessment or other charge shall be implemented in fiscal year 2007 except those associated with the use of telephones and televisions; and provided further, that in the operation of the outpatient pharmacy, the Soldiers' Home shall cover the cost of drugs prescribed at the Soldiers' Home, excluding the required co-payment, only when the veteran has no access to other drug insurance coverage, including coverage through the program authorized by section 39 of chapter 19A of the General Laws..... \$18,531,625

The Governor reduced the following item:

The Legislature overrode the Governor's veto.

4190-0102

The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke may expend for the outpatient pharmacy program an amount not to exceed \$225,000 from co-payments which it may charge to users of the program; provided, that no co-payments shall be imposed or required of any person which exceed the level of co-payments charged in fiscal year 2006; provided further, that no funds appropriated in this item shall be expended until the superintendent has submitted a report to the secretary and the house and senate committees on

ways and means detailing projected expenditures for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and any and all assumptions used to project outpatient pharmacy spending for the outpatient pharmacy program from this item and item 4190-0100 by September 1, 2006 ; provided further, that said superintendent shall submit a report to said secretary and the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to, demographic information on said outpatient pharmacy users, including age and insurance status, utilization information for the outpatient pharmacy, including the number of generic prescriptions filled, the number of brand name prescriptions filled, the number of 30-day supplies of generic drugs dispensed, the number of 30-day supplies of brand name drugs dispensed, and a description of said Soldiers' Home 's drug utilization review program for the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2007; provided further, that said report shall be submitted not later than January 16, 2007 ; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the Soldiers' home may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system..... \$225,000

4190-0200

The Soldier's Home in Holyoke may expend not more than \$25,000 from fees collected from veterans in its care for the purposes of providing television and telephone services to residents; provided, that fees from the use of telephones and televisions shall only be expended for payments to vendors for said services..... \$25,000

4190-1100

The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke may expend not more than \$200,442 for facility maintenance and patient care, including personnel costs; provided, that 40 per cent of all revenues generated pursuant to section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws through the purchase of license plates with the designation VETERAN by eligible veterans of the commonwealth, upon compensating the registry of motor vehicles for the cost associated with the license plates, shall be deposited into and for the purposes of this retained revenue account of the Soldiers' Home ; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the Soldiers' Home may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system, prior appropriation continued..... \$200,442

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES.

Department of Youth Services.

The Governor reduced the following item.
The Legislature overrode the Governor's veto.
4200-0010

For the administration of the department of youth services; provided, that



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES & BENEFITS
DONAT J. "DAN" LE BLANC
DIRECTOR/VETERANS' AGENT

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

SCOTT W. LANG, MAYOR

March 12, 2007

City Council President
Leo R. Pimental, Ward # 6
133 Williams Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA
2007 MAR 15 P 12:06
CITY CLERK

Dear Councillor Pimental;

This is in response to your letter dated February 14, 2007 regarding the City Council motion for a "special license plate" to support veterans' benefits in the Commonwealth. I received a telephone call from State Representative Robert Koczera's office from Mr. Tobias M. Paulo Aide to Representative Koczera regarding this issue. I have attached for your review that information faxed to me regarding the process to obtain a "special license plate" and await your and the Council's subsequent recommendations.

I have also included in the Attachment the fiscal year 2008 budget for the Department of Veterans' Services with specific reference to line item number 4180-1100. Specific attention to the "VETERANS" license plate fees and to what programs the revenues is directed.

I would suggest that if another license plate was designed as we suggest that these revenues could be directed to offset the 25% charge to every City and Town in the Commonwealth for the M.G.L. Chapter 115 program. This could reduce the financial burden on each community for this State mandate program. And may allow for an increase from the current 75% reimbursement to each community to as much as 90% or 100%.

I would be more than happy to discuss my views on this subject with you or any Committee that you or the Council feels is appropriate. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Donat J. Le Blanc
Director/Veterans Agent

Attachment