

**GENERAL SUMMARY**

The Recreation Commission was created by Chapter 1239, Statutes of 1947, to study the problems of recreation in California, to formulate a state recreation policy and to aid and encourage public recreation activities. The commission is comprised of seven nonsalaried members appointed by the Governor. The Director of Recreation is appointed by the Governor and is responsible for the execution of the duties authorized by the act under policies established by the commission.

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

ITEM 255 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 809  
Budget line No. 40

*For Support of Department of Veterans Affairs From the General Fund*

Amount requested .....	\$239,512
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	249,178
Decrease (3.9 percent) .....	<u>\$9,666</u>

**Summary of Increase**

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages .....	\$1,513	—\$5,589	\$4,076	812	67
Operating expense .....	785	—215	1,000	812	68
Equipment .....	—438	—438	---	812	69
Increased reimbursements ..	—8,500	—8,500	---	812	74
Total increase .....	<u>—\$9,666</u>	<u>—\$14,742</u>	<u>\$5,076</u>		

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount Budgeted .....	\$239,512
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	234,436
Reduction .....	<u>\$5,076</u>

**ANALYSIS**

The decrease in support from the General Fund of \$9,666 is largely the result of an increase of \$8,500 in reimbursements from the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund. Total expenditures will decrease \$1,166 below the estimate for 1950-51 but are \$20,600 over the actual expenditures of 1949-50. Two new positions were added during 1950-51 by executive order. One of these is continued as an authorized position, the other is planned to be dropped.

**Division of Administration**

The Budget of this division represents an increase of \$659. New furniture for the director accounts for this increase. We recommend approval.

**Division of Educational Assistance**

The budget of this division shows a decrease of \$2,364. One new position was added by executive order to handle greater veteran enrollment than anticipated. This position is not included for 1951-52 on the assumption that enrollment will decline. We recommend approval of the request.

Division of Service and Coordination

This division shows an increase of \$539. One new position of semi-senior accountant is proposed, costing \$4,076. This position is requested to standardize record keeping and to audit veterans organizations' books of record relative to propriety of payments by the State in connection with the assistance to veterans organizations' program. The audit reports of the Department of Finance, released in 1950 after review of the payments made by the Division to determine if they were in conformity with the contract provisions, revealed that in some cases, records were not in a satisfactory condition to substantiate payments by the State. As a result of this audit, this position was added for the current year by executive order. This position is not shown as a new position, but should be considered as such since it has not been authorized by the Legislature.

We believe the cost of this position should be borne by the veterans organizations and not added to the administrative costs of this program. The position is needed because the beneficiaries of this program have failed to keep proper records.

We recommend that the position be allowed provided that the cost of this position plus \$1,000 operating expenses be paid from Item 260, which appropriates the \$550,000 to the three veterans organizations. This will provide an incentive for the veterans organizations to put their house in order, thereby saving this expense. If the department bears the burden of the cost they may continue to ignore the recommendations of the departmental fiscal officers.

Department of Veterans Affairs  
DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

ITEM 256 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 809  
Budget line No. 66

For Additional Support of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
From the Veterans' Dependents Education Fund (Oil Royalties)

Amount requested .....	\$16,000
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	7,500
Increase (113 percent) .....	\$8,500

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted .....	\$16,000
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	16,000
Reduction .....	None

ANALYSIS

This item represents a reimbursement to the General Fund for expenditures made by the Division of Educational Assistance on the administration of the Educational Assistance to Veterans' Dependents Program. The increase of \$8,500 over 1950-51 is an adjustment in the reimbursement to charge this fund for its share of administrative costs between veterans' claims and veterans' dependents claims on a more accurate basis.

We recommend approval.

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS**

ITEM 257 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 813  
Budget line No. 23

**For Educational Assistance to Veterans From the General Fund**

Amount requested-----	\$3,332,315
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year-----	3,799,219
Decrease (12.3 percent)-----	\$466,904

**Summary of Increase**

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Tuition-----	-\$206,055	-\$206,055	---	813	19
Books and supplies-----	-44,805	-44,805	---	813	20
Subsistence-----	-216,044	-216,044	---	813	21
Total increase-----	-\$466,904	-\$466,904	---		

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount budgeted-----	\$3,332,315
Legislative Auditor's recommendation-----	3,332,315
Reduction-----	None

**ANALYSIS**

It is estimated by the agency that this program reached its peak enrollment in the spring semester of 1950. The enrollment for the 1950-51 year is assumed to have leveled off and a drop in enrollments is expected at the beginning of 1951-52.

The appropriation for 1950-51 is estimated to be inadequate to finance the cost of increased veteran enrollment and a deficiency bill is required in the amount of \$800,039.

We recommend approval of the amount requested for 1951-52.

**GENERAL SUMMARY**

Following World War I the State assisted veterans to continue an educational program which had been interrupted by war service. This program continued between 1921 and 1928 and nearly \$500,000 was expended. More than 1,400 World War I veterans were assisted.

This educational program was reenacted in 1943 for World War II veterans. By the end of 1949, 14,274 World War II veterans had received assistance. This program supplements the benefits under the G. I. Bill of Rights. Veterans who have exhausted their educational entitlement under the G. I. Bill are given first consideration for enrollment. The maximum amount expended on account of any one veteran cannot exceed \$1,000.

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
VETERANS' CLAIMS AND RIGHTS SERVICE**

ITEM 258 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 813  
Budget line No. 47

**For Support of Veterans' Claims and Right Service From the General Fund**

Amount requested-----	\$550,000
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year-----	550,000
Increase-----	None

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount budgeted	\$550,000
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	None
Reduction	\$550,000

**ANALYSIS**

During the six fiscal years since the war, the State has spent \$4,560,710 on a program to assist veterans in presenting and pursuing claims against the United States or this State.

To accomplish this objective, two overlapping state-supported projects have been operating. The following shows the costs of these projects and the general administration of them for the six postwar years:

Aid to veterans organizations	\$2,577,220
Contribution to county service officers	1,512,230
Support of division of service and coordination	471,260
Total	\$4,560,710

Three veterans' organizations have received the following amounts during this six-year period:

American Legion	\$1,419,325
Disabled American Veterans	416,541
Veterans of Foreign Wars	741,354
	\$2,577,220

The proposed total cost of this program for 1951-52 amounts to \$988,046. This budget item requests \$550,000 for aid to three veterans' organizations to reimburse them for their service to veterans in establishing claims. For 1949-50 the State bore 72 percent of the cost and the veterans' organizations 28 percent.

We recommend that this program be reduced by discontinuing the assistance to veterans' organizations. We recommend continued state assistance to county service officers provided by Item 380. This will assure facilities for veterans to obtain assistance and information.

As an alternative, we recommend that (1) an early termination date be established for this program of assistance to veterans' organizations, and, meantime, (2) a return to the 50-50 basis that was in effect some years ago.

**Department of Veterans Affairs****EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENTS**

ITEM 259 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 813  
Budget line No. 80**For Educational Assistance to Veterans' Dependents From the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund**

Amount requested	\$195,055
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year	235,240
Decrease (17.1 percent)	\$40,185

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount budgeted	\$195,055
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	195,055
Reduction	None

**ANALYSIS**

This is an expanding program. While the enrollment of widows appears to be leveling off, a constant increase in the enrollment of orphans can be expected. The amount proposed will provide assistance to 195 summer session students, 765 full semester students and 800 spring semester students. The total increase in the program amounts to \$19,500.

The source of revenue for the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund is a recurring annual transfer of \$150,000 from the State Lands Act Fund. Revenue in the State Lands Act Fund is largely derived from oil royalties. Prior to 1948-49 the annual expenditure did not exceed this amount and a surplus was built up. Since then, expenditures have exceeded \$150,000 and by the end of 1951-52 there will be a deficit of approximately \$59,745 in the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund. Item 262 provides \$59,745 from the General Fund to cover this deficit.

We recommend legislation to eliminate the inter-relationship of State Lands Act revenues and veterans' dependents' education. This program should be financed from the General Fund, as is the veterans' education program. The present complex financing affects financial administration, and records of the State Lands Commission, all central control agencies, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The General Fund indirectly supports this program under the present arrangement since that fund receives part of the balance of State Lands Act revenue.

**GENERAL SUMMARY**

Financial assistance is granted widows and orphans of deceased veterans on the basis of \$20 per month for those attending high school and \$40 per month for those attending colleges.

To qualify a dependent for assistance, the dependent must have lived in California for at least five years immediately preceding the application for assistance. A dependent child must be over 16 and not more than 21 years of age, but having been enrolled prior to the age of 21 he may continue receiving assistance until the completion of a prescribed course of training or until the age of 27, whichever occurs first. A dependent widow may receive up to four years of assistance. A widow's eligibility will be terminated upon remarriage.

This program started in 1931. In 1945 the amount of assistance was liberalized and the act was amended to permit war widows to receive educational assistance. Another form of assistance is provided by Section 16111 of the Education Code. No state-owned college, university, or other school shall charge any tuition or incidental fee to any child of any veteran who has a service-connected disability and whose annual income, excluding governmental compensation for such service-connected disability, does not exceed \$1,800.

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENTS**

ITEM 260 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 813  
Budget line No. 55

*For Educational Assistance to Veterans' Dependents From the General Fund*

Amount requested .....	\$59,745
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	None
Increase .....	\$59,745

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted .....	\$59,745
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	59,745
Reduction .....	None

## ANALYSIS

This new item is necessary to provide for a deficit in the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund. The program is described and our recommendation is discussed under Item 259, which provides for the appropriation from the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund.

**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**VETERANS' HOME**

ITEM 261 of the Budget Bill . . . . . Budget page 815  
Budget line No. 7

*For Support of Veterans' Home From the General Fund*

Amount requested .....	\$1,471,451
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	1,404,025
Increase (4.8 percent) .....	\$67,426

## Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages .....	\$87,377	\$80,525	\$6,852	822	13
Operating expense .....	65,150	65,150	---	822	16
Equipment .....	24,349	24,349	---	822	17
Decreased reimbursement for services to members and employees .....	3,550	3,550	---	822	20
Increased reimbursement for federal aid funds .....	—113,000	—113,000	---	815	20
Total increase .....	\$67,426	\$60,574	\$6,852		

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted .....	\$1,471,451
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	1,459,184
Reduction .....	\$12,267

## ANALYSIS

Total expenditures for support in 1951-52 amount to \$2,327,451, an increase of \$180,426 or 8.4 percent over 1950-51 estimates. The federal share of total expenditures amounts to \$856,000 or 37 percent of total expenditures.

The average population is estimated at 1,745 in 1951-52, an increase of 166 members or 10.5 percent over 1950-51. The capacity of the home will increase by 62 beds upon completion of the women veterans' building. The estimated per capita costs for 1951-52 amount to \$1,334, a decrease of \$26 from the estimate for 1950-51.

Salaries and wages are increased by \$87,377. Thirty-six new positions are proposed costing \$83,898 and two positions authorized by executive order are extended permanently as authorized positions. The increase in salaries has been partially offset by increasing salary savings by \$35,815, a 63 percent increase,

The following table is a schedule of our recommended reductions in the budget of the Veterans' Home:

1 Institution food administrator, grade 1-----	\$3,372
4 Kitchen helpers to member positions-----	4,275
1 Member of the guard, member-----	1,080
1 Intermediate clerk to member position-----	1,140
1 Groundsman and flower gardener-----	2,400
 Total savings -----	 \$12,267

The recommended reductions in new position requests are made for the following reasons:

1 *Institution food administrator, grade 1, (Budget page 817, line 65)* ----- \$3,372

This position is requested to supervise the hospital kitchen, plan menus, and provide relief for the food manager. The hospital kitchen is now supervised by the food manager and a supervising cook. There are also two dietitians. It is the current practice in the mental hospitals that there should be no relief provided for the food manager as such. The only relief is that which is normally provided by the supervising cooks. The Veterans' Home now has as many kitchen supervisory personnel as any of the mental hospitals, all of which have greater populations. The Veterans' Home wishes to expand its dietetic therapy program. Although this may possibly be desirable, we do not feel that this program should be expanded until a policy has been decided upon for all state hospitals. This program is now considerably above the level of service provided for patients on the treatment diet in the mental hospitals.

4 *Kitchen helpers to member positions (Budget page 817, line 67)* ----- \$4,275

A total of \$4,275 could be saved by using paid member help in place of civil service employees. This agency has difficult problems of recruitment which are likely to become more serious. Using paid member help eases these problems and reduces the demands of the State for additional manpower. The Veterans' Home states that civilian help is more efficient. We wish to point out that efficiency in the kitchens should improve considerably by the purchase of several major items of kitchen equipment such as a vegetable slicer, food mixers, and food choppers. In addition the Personnel Board is now considering a new class of dining room and kitchen assistant which would combine the present classes of waiter and kitchen helper. This class consolidation would permit greater employee interchangeability. If this change is approved much greater use of waitresses in the kitchen should be possible.

1 *Member of the guard, member position (Budget page 819, line 36)* ----- \$1,080

Two positions are requested. Increased population is given as the main reason for these positions. The population is increasing by 10 percent while this request amounts to a 25 percent increase in members of the guard. It is estimated that 70 percent of the time of these positions is for patrolling of grounds for fire hazards and public protection. There is less need for fire protection now than there was in the past, because the old buildings constituting the greatest fire hazard are being replaced with new buildings of fire resistant construction. We recommend the addition of one guard instead of two.

1 *Intermediate clerk to member position (Budget page 819, line 35)* ----- \$1,140

This position is requested for the adjutant's office where some member help is now used. The work involves taking applications for admission, general filing and maintenance of records. In the interest of economy and in the face of a shortage of manpower, we recommend this position be filled by member help saving \$1,140.

1 *Groundsman and gardener (Budget page 820, line 47)* ----- \$2,400

This position was requested for the current year and the Legislature deleted it from the budget. The Veterans' Home has 24 positions in this budget for maintenance of grounds. We recommended last year that the landscaping be limited to lawns, trees and evergreen plantings. This would enable the home to be kept attractive with a minimum of effort. Flower planting activities can be kept up by the members on an entirely voluntary basis. In our opinion the home has sufficient staff to do this work.

#### Feeding Costs

A comparison of feeding costs at the Veterans' Home with state mental hospitals indicates a considerably higher standard of feeding at the Veterans' Home.

The annual cost of an individual ration for the hospital at the Veterans' Home amounts to \$310.44 while the cost at the mental hospitals for patients on a treatment diet (for T.B.'s and physically ill) is \$260.05, or 16 percent below the ration at the Veterans' Home.

A comparison of the regular diet indicates a similar high standard at the Veterans' Home in comparison with the states' mental hospitals. The annual cost of an individual ration in the main mess at the Veterans' Home amounts to \$262.10. The general patient diet for mental hospitals amounts to \$214.43, or 18 percent below the ration at the Veterans' Home.

Local production consumed shows a decline of \$18,706 for 1951-52 because the hog ranch will be eliminated in 1951-52. Discontinuing the hog ranch has permitted a reduction of \$21,312 in expenditures for the operation of this project. For the last two years farming operations have lost money. It appears that consideration should be given to improvement of the efficiency of such activities.

Unlike other institutions, the Veterans' Home does not have cafeteria service for its main dining room, which serves 1,046. The members are served family style. The explanation for this is that members are largely disabled and the average age of those eating in the dining room is 67 years. It is true that there are some members eating in the main mess who are unable to carry a tray and table service is necessary for them. However, a large proportion are able to carry a tray through a cafeteria line. The total cost for 85 waitresses for three dining rooms amounts to \$208,710. The main dining room requires 54 waitresses costing approximately \$129,600 annually. Considerable savings would result from cafeteria service for those members able to carry a tray. We recommend, in the interests of economy, that consideration be given to this change in service.



**Department of Veterans Affairs  
WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS HOME**

ITEM 262 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 823  
Budget line No. 8

**For Support of the Woman's Relief Corps Home From the General Fund**

Amount requested .....	\$68,483
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	74,627
Decrease (8.2 percent) .....	\$6,144

**Summary of Increase**

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages .....	—\$851	—\$851	---	825	37
Operating expense .....	—4,335	—4,335	---	825	38
Equipment .....	—958	—958	---	825	39
Total decrease .....	—\$6,144	—\$6,144	---		

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount budgeted .....	\$68,483
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	68,483
Reduction .....	None

**ANALYSIS**

<i>Population and unit costs</i>	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
Average member population...	33	28	23	20
Cost per member .....	\$2,101	\$2,447	\$3,245	\$3,424

This table indicates how rapidly the per capita costs are rising as the population continues to decrease. The home will be able to reduce its staff by one position for 1951-52. Salary increases of the remaining staff reduce this saving to \$851. The principal reduction is in the amount for maintenance of structures. The current year budget provides funds for emergency repair work.

This budget provides for 18 positions for a membership of 20 in the home. As the population continues to decline, some further reduction in staff should result.

An alternative method of care should be determined by the 1951 Legislature. We recommend that legislation be introduced to transfer the members of the home to the women veterans' unit at the Veterans Home in Yountville as soon as it is ready for occupancy. This unit is now under construction. This will reduce the cost and provide more adequate medical care for the members.

**GENERAL SUMMARY**

The Woman's Relief Corps Home of California was the first of its kind to be established in the United States and was authorized by an Act of the Legislature of 1887. The purpose of the home, as expressed by the Legislature, is to provide for the support of army nurses and wives, widows, mothers and dependents, destitute unmarried daughters and sisters of Union veterans who served honorably in the Civil War. Further admissions to the home were enjoined by an act of the Legislature in the Statutes of 1947, Chapter 1202, and consequently, since that time the membership of the home has been decreasing steadily.

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS HOME—HOSPITALIZATION

ITEM 263 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 825

Budget line No. 58

*For Hospitalization of Members of the Woman's Relief Corps Home in  
County Hospitals From the General Fund*

Amount requested .....	\$2,500
Estimated to be expended in the 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	2,500
Increase .....	None

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted .....	\$2,500
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	2,500
Reduction .....	None

## GENERAL SUMMARY

The Legislature of 1947, by Chapter 1202 of the Statutes, added Section 1086.1 to the Military and Veterans Code, which authorized the Woman's Relief Corps Home to transfer to the county hospital of the county in which the home is located any member requiring hospitalization and to return said member to the home when hospitalization was no longer needed. Members who are believed to be mentally ill or mentally deficient are specifically excluded. In the event facilities at the county hospital are not available and immediate hospitalization is required, authority was granted to take the members to a private hospital to be kept therein until such time as hospitalization was no longer required.

## MISCELLANEOUS

## CONTRIBUTION TO LEGISLATORS' RETIREMENT FUND

ITEM 264 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 830

Budget line No. 13

*For the State's Contribution to the Legislators' Retirement Fund  
From the General Fund*

Amount requested .....	\$28,500
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year .....	28,000
Increase .....	500

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted .....	\$28,500
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	28,500
Reduction .....	None

## ANALYSIS

Section 9358 of the Government Code provides that the State shall contribute annually to the Legislators' Retirement Fund an amount, estimated by the Board of Administration, equal to so much of the benefits to be paid from the fund during that year as is not provided by the accumulated contributions of the members.