

SS#2 HCS HB 1893 -- GAMING FUNDS

Currently, the laws regarding the distribution of gaming funds contain provisions that govern the administration of early childhood education and veterans' programs which are supported by gaming moneys. This bill repeals and re-enacts those provisions with two changes and places them in the statutes that apply to veterans (Chapter 42, RSMo) and to education (Chapter 161). The changes include requiring grant funds to be made available for service officer training for outreach programs between veteran service organizations and the Missouri Veterans Commission and adds the Vietnam War to the list of conflicts for which service medals are awarded. An obsolete subsection that describes how distributions were made in Fiscal Year 1998 and earlier is also repealed.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2011, the Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund and the Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund will each receive, subject to appropriations, an additional \$600,000 per year if the Gaming Commission Fund reaches the 2009 appropriation level for early childhood education. Once the \$1.2 million is distributed to these two funds, any additional moneys will be deposited into the Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund.

The bill also requires the State Auditor to conduct an annual audit for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2011, of the Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund and the Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund. The findings of each audit of the veterans' trust fund must be distributed to the General Assembly, the Governor, and Lieutenant Governor within 10 business days after completion of the audit, and the finding of each audit of the early childhood fund must be distributed to the General Assembly within 10 business days after completion of the audit.