

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1031

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO VETERANS; AMENDING SECTION 65-208, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR
2 THE VETERANS TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO
3 A VOUCHER SYSTEM AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION.
4

5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 SECTION 1. That Section 65-208, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
7 amended to read as follows:

8 65-208. TRANSPORTATION OF WHEELCHAIR-BOUND VETERANS -- CREATION OF
9 VETERANS TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM. (1) Legislative intent. A
10 transportation network operated by volunteers provides veterans in the
11 state of Idaho with van transportation to and from medical appointments.
12 Due to insurance and liability issues, this network is unable to transport
13 disabled veterans who are confined to wheelchairs. As a result, wheel-
14 chair-bound veterans must hire private vans with wheelchair lifts in order
15 to obtain medical treatment. As provided in this section, the veterans
16 transportation fund grant program is intended to financially assist these
17 disabled veterans in obtaining necessary transportation.

18 (2) Veterans transportation fund grant program. There is hereby cre-
19 ated and established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "vet-
20 erans transportation fund," which shall consist of such funds as may be ap-
21 propriated for that purpose by the legislature, grants, donations or moneys
22 from other sources. The veterans transportation fund grant program shall
23 be administered by the division of veterans services, as created in section
24 65-201, Idaho Code, in order to provide grant moneys ~~for a voucher system~~
25 for transportation services for wheelchair-bound veterans who need trans-
26 portation to and from medical appointments, or transportation for purposes
27 of meeting the basic needs or other necessities of daily life as set forth
28 in rule. The division may award grants or enter into agreements with trans-
29 portation vendors, or enter into agreements with others to administer grants
30 or the transportation services authorized by this section. Moneys in the
31 fund may be expended pursuant to appropriation. Any interest earned on the
32 investment of idle moneys in the fund shall be returned to the fund.