House Bill 1389

By: Representative Thomas of the 65th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterans benefits, so as to authorize the Department of Veterans Service to establish processes and procedures for the administration of certain state benefits for veterans and members of a veteran's immediate family, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterans benefits, is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

"Part 5

38-4-100.

(a) As used in this part, the term 'immediate family member' means a veteran's spouse, sibling, child, or parent, including stepparent.

(b) The Department of Veterans Service is authorized to establish processes and procedures for the administration of certain state benefits for veterans that may be appropriated by the General Assembly to the Department of Veterans Service for the purposes specified in Code Section 38-4-101 for the benefit of veterans and the immediate family members of such veterans.

38-4-101.

(a) Contingent upon appropriation by the General Assembly, the Department of Veterans Service shall provide up to $50,000.00 to each veteran and immediate family member who:

(1) Undergoes a heart transplant procedure;

(2) Has federal veterans' benefits which are insufficient to cover the cost of such procedure;

(3) Applies with the Department of Veterans Service for payment for such procedure; and

(4) Satisfies other such reasonable requirements as may be promulgated in rules and regulations by the Department of Veterans Service.

(b) The Department of Veterans Service shall provide no more than the difference between the amount of coverage that the veteran or immediate family member has through federal veterans' benefits for a heart transplant procedure and $50,000.00.

(c) The provision of state benefits pursuant to this Code section shall be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.