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MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Representative Helen Head, Chair, House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs

Date: January 19, 2017

Subject: Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY 2017 Budget Adjustment

Thank you for the opportunity to review the provision of the Governor's proposed FY 2017 Budget Adjustment that falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs. After testimony and careful consideration of the provision, the Committee voted to adopt the following recommendation:

Sec. B.342, Vermont Veterans' Home:

The Committee heard testimony from Melissa Jackson, the Administrator of the Vermont Veterans' Home and Allan Faxon, the Chief Operating Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home ("VVH"). The Governor's proposed Budget Adjustment requests a total of \$1,389,927.00 in additional funding for VVH, including \$1,014,927.00 needed due to a statewide reclassification of nursing positions and an additional \$375,000.00 to cover expenses associated with hiring temporary nursing staff.

The Administrator testified regarding the improvement in VVH's census numbers and that the call-out rate among nurses for FY 2017 is slightly down from FY 2016. To achieve reductions in the call-out rate and reduce the use of temporary nursing staff, VVH has instituted a new LNA training program and an occupational safety review program.

The Committee is concerned about the expenses associated with the use of temporary nursing staff in FY 2017, and therefore encourages VVH to continue efforts to make further progress in reducing the call-out rate among nurses through improved training and occupational safety measures. Nevertheless, the Committee is pleased with the improved census numbers and the measures that VVH has already taken to reduce call-outs and the use of temporary nursing staff.

Therefore, the Committee voted 10–0, with one member not present, to recommend adoption of section B.342 and the additional funding for the VVH.