

Subcommittee: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016
Location: Room 424 State Capitol
Time: 9:00am

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Inman at 9:00am
2. The Clerk took attendance:
 - Present: Inman, Jenkins, Potvin, Canfield, and Yanez
 - Absent: None
 - Excused: None
3. Representative Potvin made a motion to approve minutes from the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs meeting on 03/03/2015, which was approved by unanimous vote.
4. BG Michael Stone, Assistant Adjutant General for Installations, Michigan Army National Guard, presented an overview of the Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy, to include current and recommended appropriations, possibility for a second academy sometime after 2019, status of the federal matching funds, and the authority to raise up to \$1.0 million in private funds.
5. Mr. Jeff Connell, Director, Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy, discussed the academy's operations to include the current class size – 122 (down from 150) – halfway through the cycle, the recent audit of the academy, the necessity of a minimum of \$800,000 from federal matching funds in order to meet minimum staffing requirements, and introduced cadre of the academy who were present.
6. BG Stone and Director Connell received and answered questions from the subcommittee members.
7. Ms. Carol Clark, Director, Michigan Jobs Challenge Program, provided an overview of the program to include current members of the program – 45 academy graduates – partnerships with local colleges and universities, the jobs training provided, the processes for obtaining GEDs or diplomas while in the program, and the current educational status of the program members.
8. Ms. Clark received and answered questions from the subcommittee members.
9. Mr White, Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduate and current Jobs Challenge Program Associate, provided personal testimony and answered questions from the subcommittee members.
10. Mr. Mark Williams, union representative of the veterans homes and academy employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, provided testimony on the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Audit Report.
11. Due to the ongoing hearings involving the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Chairman Inman tabled the discussion until the audit was referred to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs.
12. Mr. Williams received and answered questions from the subcommittee.

13. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Inman at 9:46am