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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1937

- 02/16/2023 Authored by Newton  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration
- 02/21/2023 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
- 03/30/2023 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to state government; establishing a budget for the Department of Military

1.3 Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs; modifying veterans bonus program

1.4 and Minnesota GI bill program provisions; requiring reports; appropriating money;

1.5 amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 190.19, subdivision 2a; 197.236,

1.6 subdivision 9; 197.79, subdivisions 1, 2, by adding a subdivision; 197.791,

1.7 subdivisions 5, 6, 7; Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section

1.8 37, subdivision 2.

1.9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.10 **ARTICLE 1**

1.11 **MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

1.12 Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

1.13 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

1.14 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,

1.15 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

1.16 The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under

1.17 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.

1.18 "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"

1.19 is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

1.20		<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
1.21		<b><u>Available for the Year</u></b>	
1.22		<b><u>Ending June 30</u></b>	
1.23		<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>
1.24	Sec. 2. <b><u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u></b>		
1.25	<b><u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 45,317,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 28,009,000</u></b>

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each  
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following  
 2.3 subdivisions. The base is \$27,987,000 in fiscal  
 2.4 year 2026 and \$28,007,000 in fiscal year 2027  
 2.5 and each year thereafter.

2.6 **Subd. 2. Maintenance of Training Facilities** 9,951,000 10,064,000

2.7 **Subd. 3. General Support** 22,125,000 4,703,000

2.8 The base is \$4,723,000 in fiscal year 2026 and  
 2.9 \$4,742,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year  
 2.10 thereafter.

2.11 **(a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).**  
 2.12 \$320,000 the first year and \$328,000 the  
 2.13 second year are for administrative and payroll  
 2.14 costs to create and operate a Cyber  
 2.15 Coordination Cell in the Minnesota National  
 2.16 Guard. The base is \$337,000 in fiscal year  
 2.17 2026 and \$345,000 in fiscal year 2027 and  
 2.18 each year thereafter.

2.19 **(b) Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F).**  
 2.20 \$417,000 the first year and \$426,000 the  
 2.21 second year are for administrative and payroll  
 2.22 costs to create and operate Holistic Health and  
 2.23 Fitness (H2F) initiatives across the Minnesota  
 2.24 Army National Guard. The base is \$437,000  
 2.25 in fiscal year 2026 and \$448,000 in fiscal year  
 2.26 2027 and each year thereafter.

2.27 **Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives** 12,939,000 12,939,000

2.28 The appropriations in this subdivision are  
 2.29 available until June 30, 2027.

2.30 If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is  
 2.31 insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available  
 2.32 in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered  
 2.33 balance does not cancel at the end of the first  
 2.34 year and is available for the second year.

3.1	<u>Subd. 5. <b>Emergency Services</b></u>	<u>302,000</u>		<u>303,000</u>
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3.2 **Sustain Domestic Operations**

3.3 **Communication Capabilities.** \$302,000 the  
 3.4 first year and \$303,000 the second year are  
 3.5 for ongoing replacement of communications  
 3.6 systems to support domestic operations when  
 3.7 ordered into state service by the governor. The  
 3.8 base is \$261,000 in fiscal year 2026 and  
 3.9 \$262,000 in fiscal year 2027.

3.10 Sec. 3. **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3.11	<u>Subdivision 1. <b>Total Appropriation</b></u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>164,233,000</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>130,093,000</u>
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3.12 The amounts that may be spent for each  
 3.13 purpose are specified in the following  
 3.14 subdivisions. The base is \$122,077,000 in  
 3.15 fiscal year 2026 and \$123,159,000 in fiscal  
 3.16 year 2027 and each year thereafter.

3.17	<u>Subd. 2. <b>Veterans Programs and Services</b></u>	<u>75,194,000</u>		<u>29,548,000</u>
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3.18 The amounts that may be spent for each  
 3.19 purpose are specified in the following  
 3.20 subdivisions. The base is \$28,949,000 in fiscal  
 3.21 year 2026 and \$28,976,000 in fiscal year 2027.

3.22 (a) **State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$2,818,000  
 3.23 the first year and \$2,847,000 the second year  
 3.24 are for the operation of the state's veterans  
 3.25 cemeteries. The base is \$2,878,000 in fiscal  
 3.26 year 2026 and \$2,912,000 in fiscal year 2027.

3.27 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**  
 3.28 \$500,000 each year is for grants to the  
 3.29 following congressionally chartered veterans  
 3.30 service organizations as designated by the  
 3.31 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,  
 3.32 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the  
 3.33 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
 3.34 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and

4.1 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding  
4.2 must be allocated in direct proportion to the  
4.3 funding currently being provided by the  
4.4 commissioner to these organizations.

4.5 (c) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for  
4.6 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
4.7 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
4.8 197.231.

4.9 (d) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is  
4.10 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
4.11 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
4.12 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
4.13 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
4.14 197.791.

4.15 (e) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year  
4.16 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
4.17 surviving family members of deceased  
4.18 veterans.

4.19 (f) **County Veterans Service Office.**  
4.20 \$1,550,000 each year is for funding the  
4.21 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
4.22 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

4.23 (g) **Camp Bliss.** \$150,000 each year is for a  
4.24 grant to Camp Bliss as provided for in section  
4.25 6. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year  
4.26 2026 and each year thereafter is \$75,000.

4.27 (h) **Veterans on the Lake.** \$50,000 each year  
4.28 is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for  
4.29 expenses related to retreats for Minnesota  
4.30 veterans, including therapy, transportation,  
4.31 and activities customized for veterans. These  
4.32 are onetime appropriations.

4.33 (i) **Veteran Resilience Project.** \$400,000 each  
4.34 year is for a grant to the veteran resilience

5.1 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye  
5.2 movement desensitization and reprocessing  
5.3 therapy available to veterans, veterans'  
5.4 spouses, current military service members,  
5.5 and current military service members' spouses  
5.6 who are suffering from posttraumatic stress  
5.7 disorder and trauma. To be eligible for  
5.8 services, a prospective client must be a  
5.9 resident of the state or assigned to a permanent  
5.10 duty station in the state pursuant to their  
5.11 military service. The base for this  
5.12 appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year  
5.13 thereafter is \$200,000.

5.14 The veteran resilience project must report to  
5.15 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
5.16 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
5.17 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
5.18 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
5.19 15 of each year on the program. The report  
5.20 must include an overview of the program's  
5.21 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
5.22 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
5.23 service members served by the program, and  
5.24 a list and explanation of the services provided  
5.25 to program participants.

5.26 **(j) Minnesota Military and Veterans**  
5.27 **Museum. \$300,000 each year is for a grant to**  
5.28 **the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum**  
5.29 **for museum staff to provide direct services to**  
5.30 **veterans and their families. These are onetime**  
5.31 **appropriations.**

5.32 **(k) Every Third Saturday. \$100,000 each**  
5.33 **year is for a grant to Every Third Saturday to**  
5.34 **provide veterans with emergency assistance**  
5.35 **and internships. Every Third Saturday must**

6.1 report to the commissioner of veterans affairs  
6.2 and the chairs and ranking minority members  
6.3 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction  
6.4 over veterans affairs policy and finance no  
6.5 later than September 1, 2024, and by  
6.6 September 1 of each subsequent year. Each  
6.7 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed  
6.8 explanation of how the grant money was used  
6.9 and the number of veterans served by the  
6.10 program. These are onetime appropriations.

6.11 **(l) Minnesota Military Museum at Camp**  
6.12 **Ripley. \$17,769,000 the first year is for the**  
6.13 **design and construction of the Minnesota**  
6.14 **military museum at Camp Ripley. This**  
6.15 **appropriation is in addition to the**  
6.16 **appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth**  
6.17 **Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section**  
6.18 **14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This**  
6.19 **is a onetime appropriation and is available**  
6.20 **until June 30, 2027.**

6.21 **(m) CORE Program. \$950,000 each year is**  
6.22 **for the Counseling and Case Management**  
6.23 **Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)**  
6.24 **program.**

6.25 **(n) LinkVet Call Center. \$373,000 each year**  
6.26 **is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call**  
6.27 **Center.**

6.28 **(o) Recently Separated Veterans Program.**  
6.29 **\$190,000 the first year and \$170,000 the**  
6.30 **second year are for the operation of the**  
6.31 **recently separated veterans program. The**  
6.32 **commissioner of veterans affairs may use**  
6.33 **Department of Defense and other veteran data**  
6.34 **that were provided with an appropriate**  
6.35 **disclosure to assist with connecting veterans**

7.1 to resources and new programming. The  
7.2 commissioner may use money for personnel,  
7.3 research, marketing, technology solutions, and  
7.4 professional or technical contracts.

7.5 **(p) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.**  
7.6 \$770,000 each year is to operate the homeless  
7.7 veteran registry and homeless programs and  
7.8 to assist veterans, former service members,  
7.9 and their dependents with obtaining federal  
7.10 benefits through the Social Security  
7.11 Administration. The commissioner of veterans  
7.12 affairs may use money for personnel, training,  
7.13 research, marketing, and professional or  
7.14 technical contracts.

7.15 **(q) Minnesota Assistance Council for**  
7.16 **Veterans. \$3,582,000 the first year and**  
7.17 **\$946,000 the second year are for grants to the**  
7.18 **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**  
7.19 **to provide assistance throughout Minnesota**  
7.20 **to veterans and their families who are**  
7.21 **homeless or in danger of homelessness,**  
7.22 **including assistance with:**  
7.23 **(1) supportive services to maintain housing;**  
7.24 **(2) employment;**  
7.25 **(3) legal issues;**  
7.26 **(4) housing and housing-related costs;**  
7.27 **(5) transportation;**  
7.28 **(6) the acquisition and creation of permanent**  
7.29 **supportive housing; and**  
7.30 **(7) property management of permanent**  
7.31 **supportive housing.**

7.32 Of these amounts, \$2,582,000 the first year is  
7.33 for the establishment of permanent supportive

8.1 housing options for homeless veterans and  
 8.2 former service members. This is a onetime  
 8.3 appropriation and is available until June 30,  
 8.4 2026. \$250,000 the first year is for the direct  
 8.5 veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime  
 8.6 appropriation. Any unencumbered balance  
 8.7 remaining in this subdivision in the first year  
 8.8 for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council  
 8.9 for Veterans does not cancel and is available  
 8.10 for the second year. The base is \$946,000 in  
 8.11 fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter.  
 8.12 Assistance authorized under this paragraph  
 8.13 must be provided only to a veteran who has  
 8.14 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the  
 8.15 veteran's application for assistance and  
 8.16 according to other guidelines established by  
 8.17 the commissioner. To avoid duplication of  
 8.18 services, the commissioner must ensure that  
 8.19 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
 8.20 available programs for veterans.

8.21 **(r) Veterans Bonus Program. \$22,000,000**  
 8.22 the first year is for service bonuses to  
 8.23 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families  
 8.24 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This  
 8.25 is a onetime appropriation and is available  
 8.26 until June 30, 2024.

8.27 **(s) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
 8.28 \$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the  
 8.29 second year are for an initiative to prevent and  
 8.30 end veteran homelessness.

8.31 <b><u>Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care</u></b>	<u>89,039,000</u>	<u>100,545,000</u>
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8.32 (a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal  
 8.33 year 2026 is \$93,135,000 and \$94,183,000 in  
 8.34 fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.



9.1 (b) \$88,189,000 the first year and \$99,695,000  
 9.2 the second year may be transferred to a  
 9.3 veterans homes special revenue account in the  
 9.4 special revenue fund in the same manner as  
 9.5 other receipts are deposited according to  
 9.6 Minnesota Statutes, section 198.34, and are  
 9.7 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans  
 9.8 affairs for the operation of veterans homes  
 9.9 facilities and programs. The base for this  
 9.10 transfer is \$92,285,000 in fiscal year 2026 and  
 9.11 \$93,333,000 in fiscal year 2027.

9.12 (c) The department shall seek opportunities to  
 9.13 maximize federal reimbursements of  
 9.14 Medicare-eligible expenses and provide annual  
 9.15 reports to the commissioner of management  
 9.16 and budget on the federal Medicare  
 9.17 reimbursements that are received. Contingent  
 9.18 upon future federal Medicare receipts,  
 9.19 reductions to the veterans homes' general fund  
 9.20 appropriation may be made.

9.21 (d) \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the  
 9.22 second year are for the department to staff  
 9.23 Veteran Community Health Navigators in  
 9.24 community-based hospitals.

9.25 Sec. 4. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,  
 9.26 is amended to read:

9.27 Subd. 2. <b>Veterans Programs and Services</b>	27,073,000	22,153,000
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9.28 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is  
 9.29 for the Counseling and Case Management  
 9.30 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
 9.31 program.

9.32 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**  
 9.33 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the  
 9.34 following congressionally chartered veterans

10.1 service organizations as designated by the  
10.2 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,  
10.3 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the  
10.4 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
10.5 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and  
10.6 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding  
10.7 must be allocated in direct proportion to the  
10.8 funding currently being provided by the  
10.9 commissioner to these organizations.

10.10 **(c) Minnesota Assistance Council for**  
10.11 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant  
10.12 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for  
10.13 Veterans to provide assistance throughout  
10.14 Minnesota to veterans and their families who  
10.15 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
10.16 including assistance with the following:

- 10.17 (1) utilities;  
10.18 (2) employment; and  
10.19 (3) legal issues.

10.20 The assistance authorized under this paragraph  
10.21 must be made only to veterans who have  
10.22 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to  
10.23 application for assistance and according to  
10.24 other guidelines established by the  
10.25 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication  
10.26 of services, the commissioner must ensure that  
10.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
10.28 available programs for veterans.

10.29 **(d) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000  
10.30 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year  
10.31 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these  
10.32 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to  
10.33 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery  
10.34 in Redwood Falls.

11.1 (e) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for  
11.2 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
11.3 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
11.4 197.231.

11.5 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is  
11.6 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
11.7 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
11.8 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
11.9 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
11.10 197.791.

11.11 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year  
11.12 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
11.13 surviving family members of deceased  
11.14 veterans.

11.15 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**  
11.16 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the  
11.17 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
11.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

11.19 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
11.20 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to  
11.21 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The  
11.22 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide  
11.23 housing vouchers and other services to  
11.24 alleviate homelessness among veterans and  
11.25 former service members in Minnesota. The  
11.26 commissioner may contract for program  
11.27 administration and may establish a vacancy  
11.28 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation  
11.29 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is  
11.30 \$1,311,000.

11.31 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a  
11.32 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for  
11.33 expenses related to retreats for veterans at  
11.34 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including

- 12.1 therapy, transportation, and activities
- 12.2 customized for veterans.
- 12.3 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the
- 12.4 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake
- 12.5 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,
- 12.6 including therapy, transportation, and activities
- 12.7 customized for veterans.
- 12.8 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000
- 12.9 each year is for a grant to the veterans
- 12.10 resilience project. Grant funds must be used
- 12.11 to make eye movement desensitization and
- 12.12 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and,~~
- 12.13 veterans' spouses, current military service
- 12.14 members, and current military service
- 12.15 members' spouses who are suffering from
- 12.16 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The
- 12.17 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024
- 12.18 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.
- 12.19 The veterans resilience project must report to
- 12.20 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
- 12.21 chairs and ranking minority members of the
- 12.22 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
- 12.23 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
- 12.24 15 of each year on the program. The report
- 12.25 must include an overview of the program's
- 12.26 budget, a detailed explanation of program
- 12.27 expenditures, the number of veterans and
- 12.28 service members served by the program, and
- 12.29 a list and explanation of the services provided
- 12.30 to program participants.
- 12.31 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year
- 12.32 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
- 12.33 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
- 12.34 task force must collect, memorialize, and
- 12.35 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the

13.1 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their  
13.2 dependents. The task force must host a  
13.3 remembrance program in September 2021.  
13.4 This is a onetime appropriation.

13.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

13.6 **Sec. 5. CANCELLATION; FISCAL YEAR 2023.**

13.7 \$3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2021, First  
13.8 Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), is canceled  
13.9 to the general fund on June 30, 2023.

13.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

13.11 **Sec. 6. CAMP BLISS GRANT PROGRAM.**

13.12 **Subdivision 1. Grant program; eligibility; reimbursement requirements.** (a) The  
13.13 commissioner of veterans affairs shall issue a grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., for  
13.14 expenses related to retreats for eligible veterans and their family members at Camp Bliss  
13.15 in the city of Walker.

13.16 (b) The grant recipient may use grant money to provide therapy, transportation, and  
13.17 activities customized for eligible veterans and their family members.

13.18 (c) The commissioner must reimburse the grant recipient at least \$850 for each eligible  
13.19 veteran or family member who the commissioner verifies attended the camp and received  
13.20 services from the grant recipient. The commissioner shall disburse money to the grant  
13.21 recipient for up to two visits per year to the camp for each eligible veteran or family member.

13.22 **Subd. 2. Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
13.23 meanings given.

13.24 (b) "Eligible veteran" means a Minnesota resident who is either:

13.25 (1) a former armed forces service member who has a DD-214 or other official document  
13.26 from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the honorable service  
13.27 of the veteran; or

13.28 (2) a current armed forces member, whether serving in the active or reserve component.

13.29 (c) "Family member" means an eligible veteran's spouse, domestic partner, and children.

14.1

**ARTICLE 2**

14.2

**VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES**

14.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

14.4 Subd. 2a. **Uses; veterans.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
14.5 from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account may be used for:

14.6 (1) grants to veterans service organizations;

14.7 (2) outreach to underserved veterans;

14.8 (3) providing services and programs for veterans and their families;

14.9 (4) transfers to the vehicle services account for Gold Star license plates under section  
14.10 168.1253;

14.11 (5) grants of up to \$100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of  
14.12 veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their  
14.13 families;

14.14 (6) grants to an eligible foundation; and

14.15 (7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the  
14.16 commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant  
14.17 to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

14.18 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "eligible foundation" includes any organization  
14.19 that:

14.20 (1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

14.21 (2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of  
14.22 incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance  
14.23 to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

14.24 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

14.25 Subd. 9. **Burial fees prohibited.** ~~(a) The commissioner of veterans affairs shall establish~~  
14.26 ~~a fee schedule, which may be adjusted from time to time, for the interment of eligible spouses~~  
14.27 ~~and dependent children. The fees shall cover as nearly as practicable the actual costs of~~  
14.28 ~~interment, excluding the value of the plot.~~

15.1 ~~(b) Upon application, the commissioner may waive or reduce the burial fee for an indigent~~  
15.2 ~~eligible person. The commissioner shall develop a policy, eligibility standards, and~~  
15.3 ~~application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.~~

15.4 ~~(e) No plot or interment fees may be charged for the burial of service members who die~~  
15.5 ~~on active duty or eligible veterans, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 101,~~  
15.6 ~~paragraph (2) eligible persons under subdivision 8.~~

15.7 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

15.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
15.9 meanings given them.

15.10 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal  
15.11 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal  
15.12 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this  
15.13 section.

15.14 (b) "Application" means a request for a bonus payment by a veteran, a veteran's  
15.15 beneficiary, or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal representative through  
15.16 submission of written information on a form designed by the commissioner for this purpose.

15.17 (c) "Beneficiary" means in relation to a deceased veteran and in the order named:

15.18 (1) the surviving spouse, if not remarried;

15.19 (2) the children of the veteran, if there is no surviving spouse or the surviving spouse  
15.20 has remarried;

15.21 (3) the veteran's surviving parent or parents;

15.22 (4) the veteran's surviving sibling or siblings; or

15.23 (5) the veteran's estate.

15.24 (d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15.25 (e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15.26 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from September 11, 2001, to  
15.27 August 30, 2021.

15.28 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor  
15.29 or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or institution in which  
15.30 the incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized to accept money for the benefit  
15.31 of the minor or incapacitated veteran, the person determined by the commissioner to be the

16.1 person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated  
16.2 beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who  
16.3 has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or  
16.4 veteran.

16.5 (h) "Honorable service" means honorable federal service in the United States armed  
16.6 forces, as evidenced by:

16.7 (1) an honorable discharge;

16.8 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

16.9 (3) in the case of an officer, a certificate of honorable service; or

16.10 (4) in the case of an applicant who is currently serving in active duty in the United States  
16.11 armed forces, a certificate from an appropriate service authority that the applicant's service  
16.12 to date has been honorable.

16.13 (i) "Incapacitated person" means an individual who, for reasons other than being a minor,  
16.14 lacks sufficient understanding or the capacity to make personal decisions and who is unable  
16.15 to meet the individual's own personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or  
16.16 safety even when assisted by appropriate technology or supported decision making.

16.17 (j) "Resident veteran" means a veteran who served in active duty in the United States  
16.18 armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, and who also:

16.19 (1) has been separated or discharged from the United States armed forces, ~~and whose~~  
16.20 ~~home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the United States armed forces, as~~  
16.21 ~~indicated on the person's form DD-214 or other documents the commissioner may authorize,~~  
16.22 ~~is the state of Minnesota~~ and who resides in Minnesota at the time of application with the  
16.23 intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant may verify  
16.24 a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license; a state identification card; a  
16.25 voter registration card; a rent receipt; a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or  
16.26 homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address; or other form of  
16.27 verification approved by the commissioner; or

16.28 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an  
16.29 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United  
16.30 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) has  
16.31 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record in the veteran's official military personnel  
16.32 file.



17.1 (k) "Service connected" means caused by an injury or disease incurred or aggravated  
17.2 while on active duty, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

17.3 (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447 and does not include a member  
17.4 of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces ordered  
17.5 to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes a person who is providing  
17.6 honorable service on active duty in the United States armed forces and has not been separated  
17.7 or discharged.

17.8 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

17.9 Subd. 2. **Bonus amount.** (a) For a resident veteran who provided honorable service in  
17.10 the United States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, the  
17.11 bonus amount is:

17.12 (1) \$600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
17.13 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
17.14 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

17.15 (2) \$1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War  
17.16 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign Medal,  
17.17 or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

17.18 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
17.19 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
17.20 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus,  
17.21 and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or  
17.22 condition.

17.23 (b) In the case of a deceased veteran, the commissioner shall pay the bonus to the veteran's  
17.24 beneficiary.

17.25 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
17.26 read:

17.27 Subd. 11. **Reapplication allowed.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an eligible  
17.28 veteran who previously applied for a bonus under this section may reapply if the veteran  
17.29 either was denied a bonus or is entitled to receive a larger bonus than was originally awarded  
17.30 based on the amendments to this section contained in this act.

17.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

18.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

18.2 Subd. 5. **Educational assistance.** (a) On approval by the commissioner of eligibility  
18.3 for the program, the applicant shall be awarded, on a funds-available basis, the educational  
18.4 assistance under the program for use at any time according to program rules at any eligible  
18.5 institution.

18.6 (b) The amount of educational assistance in any semester or term for an eligible person  
18.7 must be determined by subtracting from the eligible person's cost of attendance the amount  
18.8 the person received or was eligible to receive in that semester or term from:

18.9 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

18.10 (2) the state grant program under section 136A.121; and

18.11 (3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the  
18.12 Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational  
18.13 rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as  
18.14 a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans  
18.15 Affairs.

18.16 (c) The amount of educational assistance for any eligible person who is a ~~full-time~~  
18.17 student must not exceed the following:

18.18 (1) ~~\$3,000~~ \$6,000 per state fiscal year; and

18.19 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

18.20 ~~(d) For a part-time student, the amount of educational assistance must not exceed \$500~~  
18.21 ~~per semester or term of enrollment. For the purpose of this paragraph, a part-time~~  
18.22 ~~undergraduate student is a student taking fewer than 12 credits or the equivalent for a~~  
18.23 ~~semester or term of enrollment and a part-time graduate student is a student considered part~~  
18.24 ~~time by the eligible institution the graduate student is attending. The minimum award for~~  
18.25 ~~undergraduate and graduate students is \$50 per term.~~

18.26 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

18.27 Subd. 6. **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation  
18.28 with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry,  
18.29 shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer  
18.30 a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as  
18.31 provided in this subdivision.

19.1 (b) An "eligible employer" means an employer operating a qualifying apprenticeship or  
19.2 on-the-job training program that has been approved by the commissioner.

19.3 (c) A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this  
19.4 subdivision if the person is:

19.5 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
19.6 States armed forces at any time;

19.7 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
19.8 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
19.9 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
19.10 11, 2001;

19.11 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
19.12 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible  
19.13 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
19.14 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

19.15 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
19.16 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
19.17 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
19.18 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
19.19 chapter 35, as amended.

19.20 (d) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
19.21 subdivision must not exceed the following:

19.22 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

19.23 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

19.24 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and  
19.25 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under  
19.26 this subdivision; and

19.27 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person  
19.28 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for  
19.29 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

19.30 (e) No more than \$5,000 in aggregate benefits under this subdivision may be paid to or  
19.31 on behalf of an individual in one fiscal year.

20.1 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's  
20.2 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
20.3 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

20.4 (g) Assistance for apprenticeship expenses and on-the-job training is available for  
20.5 qualifying programs, which must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

20.6 (1) the training must be with an eligible employer;

20.7 (2) the training must be documented and reported;

20.8 (3) the training must reasonably be expected to lead to an entry-level position; and

20.9 (4) the position must require at least six months of training to become fully trained.

20.10 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

20.11 Subd. 7. **Additional professional or educational benefits.** (a) The commissioner shall  
20.12 develop and implement a program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program  
20.13 to pay additional benefit amounts to eligible persons as provided under this subdivision.

20.14 (b) A person is eligible for additional benefits under this subdivision if the person is:

20.15 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
20.16 States armed forces at any time;

20.17 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
20.18 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
20.19 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
20.20 11, 2001;

20.21 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
20.22 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible  
20.23 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
20.24 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

20.25 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
20.26 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
20.27 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
20.28 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
20.29 chapter 35, as amended.

20.30 (c) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
20.31 subdivision must not exceed the following amounts:

21.1 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and

21.2 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

21.3 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's  
21.4 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
21.5 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

21.6 (e) A person eligible under this subdivision may use the benefit amounts for the following  
21.7 purposes:

21.8 (1) licensing or certification tests, the successful completion of which demonstrates an  
21.9 individual's possession of the knowledge or skill required to enter into, maintain, or advance  
21.10 in employment in a predetermined and identified vocation or profession, provided that the  
21.11 tests and the licensing or credentialing organizations or entities that offer the tests are  
21.12 approved by the commissioner;

21.13 (2) tests for admission to institutions of higher learning or graduate schools;

21.14 (3) national tests providing an opportunity for course credit at institutions of higher  
21.15 learning;

21.16 (4) a preparatory course for a test that is required or used for admission to an institution  
21.17 of higher education or a graduate program; and

21.18 (5) any fee associated with the pursuit of a professional or educational objective specified  
21.19 in clauses (1) to (4).