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State of Minnesota

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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
04/13/2023 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register as Amended
Read for the Second Time

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.

Table with columns: APPROPRIATIONS, Available for the Year, Ending June 30, 2024, 2025. Row 1.25: Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 63,492,000 \$ 28,646,000

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following
 2.3 subdivisions. The base is \$27,156,000 in fiscal
 2.4 year 2026 and \$27,166,000 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** 39,247,000 4,818,000

2.8 The base is \$4,828,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
 2.9 \$4,838,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year
 2.10 thereafter.

2.11 **(a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).**
 2.12 \$555,000 the first year and \$562,000 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 \$569,000 in fiscal year
 2.17 2026 and \$576,000 in fiscal year 2027 and
 2.18 each year thereafter.

2.19 **(b) Army Combat Fitness Test Field House.**
 2.20 \$17,600,000 the first year is for predesign,
 2.21 design, construction, furnishing, and equipping
 2.22 costs for an Army Combat Fitness Test Field
 2.23 House.

2.24 **(c) Minnesota Military Museum at Camp**
 2.25 **Ripley.** \$17,000,000 the first year is for the
 2.26 design and construction of the Minnesota
 2.27 Military Museum at Camp Ripley. This
 2.28 appropriation is in addition to the
 2.29 appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth
 2.30 Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section
 2.31 14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This
 2.32 is a onetime appropriation and is available
 2.33 until June 30, 2027.

3.1 **(d) Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F).**
 3.2 \$304,000 the first year and \$307,000 the
 3.3 second year are for administrative and payroll
 3.4 costs to create and operate Holistic Health and
 3.5 Fitness (H2F) initiatives across the Minnesota
 3.6 Army National Guard. The base is \$310,000
 3.7 in fiscal year 2026 and \$313,000 in fiscal year
 3.8 2027 and each year thereafter.

3.9 **Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives** 13,614,000 13,614,000

3.10 The appropriations in this subdivision are
 3.11 available until June 30, 2027.
 3.12 If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is
 3.13 insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available
 3.14 in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered
 3.15 balance does not cancel at the end of the first
 3.16 year and is available for the second year.

3.17 **Subd. 5. Emergency Services** 650,000 150,000

3.18 **Sustain Domestic Operations**
 3.19 **Communication Capabilities.** \$650,000 the
 3.20 first year and \$150,000 the second year are
 3.21 for ongoing replacement of communications
 3.22 systems to support domestic operations when
 3.23 ordered into state service by the governor.

3.24 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3.25 **Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation** \$ 144,555,000 \$ 131,551,000

3.26 The amounts that may be spent for each
 3.27 purpose are specified in the following
 3.28 subdivisions. The base is \$123,194,000 in
 3.29 fiscal year 2026 and \$124,276,000 in fiscal
 3.30 year 2027 and each year thereafter.

3.31 **Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services** 55,045,000 30,704,000

3.32 The amounts that may be spent for each
 3.33 purpose are specified in the following

4.1 subdivisions. The base is \$30,207,000 in fiscal
4.2 year 2026 and \$30,241,000 in fiscal year 2027.

4.3 **(a) State's Veterans Cemeteries. \$4,598,000**
4.4 the first year and \$4,627,000 the second year
4.5 are for the operation of the state's veterans
4.6 cemeteries. The base is \$4,158,000 in fiscal
4.7 year 2026 and \$4,192,000 in fiscal year 2027.

4.8 **(b) Veterans Service Organizations.**
4.9 \$500,000 each year is for grants to the
4.10 following congressionally chartered veterans
4.11 service organizations as designated by the
4.12 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,
4.13 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the
4.14 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
4.15 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
4.16 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding
4.17 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
4.18 funding currently being provided by the
4.19 commissioner to these organizations.

4.20 **(c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for**
4.21 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
4.22 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
4.23 197.231.

4.24 **(d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is**
4.25 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
4.26 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
4.27 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
4.28 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
4.29 197.791.

4.30 **(e) Gold Star Program. \$100,000 each year**
4.31 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
4.32 surviving family members of deceased
4.33 veterans.

- 5.1 (f) County Veterans Service Office.
5.2 \$1,550,000 each year is for funding the
5.3 County Veterans Service Office grant program
5.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.
- 5.5 (g) Camp Bliss. \$150,000 each year is for a
5.6 grant to Camp Bliss as provided for in section
5.7 6. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year
5.8 2026 and each year thereafter is \$75,000.
- 5.9 (h) Veterans on the Lake. \$50,000 each year
5.10 is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for
5.11 expenses related to retreats for Minnesota
5.12 veterans, including therapy, transportation,
5.13 and activities customized for veterans. These
5.14 are onetime appropriations.
- 5.15 (i) Veteran Resilience Project. \$400,000 each
5.16 year is for a grant to the veteran resilience
5.17 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye
5.18 movement desensitization and reprocessing
5.19 therapy available to veterans, veterans'
5.20 spouses, current military service members,
5.21 and current military service members' spouses
5.22 who are suffering from posttraumatic stress
5.23 disorder and trauma. To be eligible for
5.24 services, a prospective client must be a
5.25 resident of the state or assigned to a permanent
5.26 duty station in the state pursuant to their
5.27 military service. The base for this
5.28 appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year
5.29 thereafter is \$200,000.
- 5.30 The veteran resilience project must report to
5.31 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
5.32 chairs and ranking minority members of the
5.33 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
5.34 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
5.35 15 of each year on the program. The report

6.1 must include an overview of the program's
6.2 budget, a detailed explanation of program
6.3 expenditures, the number of veterans and
6.4 service members served by the program, and
6.5 a list and explanation of the services provided
6.6 to program participants.

6.7 **(j) Minnesota Military and Veterans**
6.8 **Museum.** \$300,000 each year is for a grant to
6.9 the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum
6.10 for museum staff to provide direct services to
6.11 veterans and their families.

6.12 **(k) Every Third Saturday.** \$100,000 each
6.13 year is for a grant to Every Third Saturday to
6.14 provide veterans with emergency assistance
6.15 and internships. Every Third Saturday must
6.16 report to the commissioner of veterans affairs
6.17 and the chairs and ranking minority members
6.18 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
6.19 over veterans affairs policy and finance no
6.20 later than September 1, 2024, and by
6.21 September 1 of each subsequent year. Each
6.22 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed
6.23 explanation of how the grant money was used
6.24 and the number of veterans served by the
6.25 program. These are onetime appropriations.

6.26 **(l) CORE Program.** \$1,225,000 each year is
6.27 for the Counseling and Case Management
6.28 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
6.29 program.

6.30 **(m) LinkVet Call Center.** \$369,000 each year
6.31 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call
6.32 Center.

6.33 **(n) Recently Separated Veterans Program.**
6.34 \$325,000 each year is for the operation of the

7.1 recently separated veterans program. The
7.2 commissioner of veterans affairs may use
7.3 Department of Defense and other veteran data
7.4 that were provided with an appropriate
7.5 disclosure to assist with connecting veterans
7.6 to resources and new programming. The
7.7 commissioner may use money for personnel,
7.8 research, marketing, technology solutions, and
7.9 professional or technical contracts. The base
7.10 for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and
7.11 each year thereafter is \$300,000.

7.12 **(o) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.**
7.13 \$675,000 each year is to operate the homeless
7.14 veteran registry and homeless programs and
7.15 to assist veterans, former service members,
7.16 and their dependents with obtaining federal
7.17 benefits through the Social Security
7.18 Administration. The commissioner of veterans
7.19 affairs may use money for personnel, training,
7.20 research, marketing, and professional or
7.21 technical contracts. The base for this
7.22 appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year
7.23 thereafter is \$1,097,000.

7.24 **(p) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
7.25 **Veterans. \$7,090,000 the first year and**
7.26 **\$970,000 the second year are for grants to the**
7.27 **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**
7.28 **to provide assistance throughout Minnesota**
7.29 **to veterans and their families who are**
7.30 **homeless or in danger of homelessness,**
7.31 **including assistance with:**
7.32 **(1) supportive services to maintain housing;**
7.33 **(2) employment;**
7.34 **(3) legal issues;**

- 8.1 (4) housing and housing-related costs;
8.2 (5) transportation;
8.3 (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent
8.4 supportive housing; and
8.5 (7) property management of permanent
8.6 supportive housing.

8.7 Of these amounts, \$5,680,000 the first year is
8.8 for the establishment of permanent supportive
8.9 housing options for homeless veterans and
8.10 former service members. This is a onetime
8.11 appropriation and is available until June 30,
8.12 2026. \$440,000 the first year is for the direct
8.13 veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime
8.14 appropriation. Any unencumbered balance
8.15 remaining in this subdivision in the first year
8.16 for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council
8.17 for Veterans does not cancel and is available
8.18 for the second year. The base is \$970,000 in
8.19 fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter.

8.20 Assistance authorized under this paragraph
8.21 must be provided only to a veteran who has
8.22 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the
8.23 veteran's application for assistance and
8.24 according to other guidelines established by
8.25 the commissioner. To avoid duplication of
8.26 services, the commissioner must ensure that
8.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other
8.28 available programs for veterans.

8.29 **(q) Veterans Bonus Program. \$15,000,000**
8.30 **the first year is for service bonuses to**
8.31 **Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families**
8.32 **under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This**
8.33 **is a onetime appropriation and is available**
8.34 **until June 30, 2024.**

9.1 (r) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.
 9.2 \$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the
 9.3 second year are for an initiative to prevent and
 9.4 end veteran homelessness.

9.5 (s) Veterans Campground Wastewater
 9.6 System Upgrades.
 9.7 \$754,000 the first year is for one or more
 9.8 grants to the Veterans Campground on Big
 9.9 Marine Lake, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
 9.10 organization, to design, engineer, permit, and
 9.11 construct wastewater systems on campground
 9.12 property to increase the capacity of wastewater
 9.13 systems. This is a onetime appropriation.

9.14 <u>Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care</u>	<u>89,510,000</u>	<u>100,847,000</u>
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9.15 (a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal
 9.16 year 2026 is \$92,987,000 and \$94,035,000 in
 9.17 fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

9.18 (b) \$88,610,000 the first year and \$99,847,000
 9.19 the second year may be transferred to a
 9.20 veterans homes special revenue account in the
 9.21 special revenue fund in the same manner as
 9.22 other receipts are deposited according to
 9.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 198.34, and are
 9.24 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans
 9.25 affairs for the operation of veterans homes
 9.26 facilities and programs. The base for this
 9.27 transfer is \$92,437,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
 9.28 \$93,485,000 in fiscal year 2027.

9.29 (c) The department shall seek opportunities to
 9.30 maximize federal reimbursements of
 9.31 Medicare-eligible expenses and provide annual
 9.32 reports to the commissioner of management
 9.33 and budget on the federal Medicare
 9.34 reimbursements that are received. Contingent

10.1 upon future federal Medicare receipts,
 10.2 reductions to the veterans homes' general fund
 10.3 appropriation may be made.
 10.4 (d) \$350,000 the first year and \$450,000 the
 10.5 second year are for the department to staff
 10.6 Veteran Community Health Navigators in
 10.7 community-based hospitals. These are onetime
 10.8 appropriations.

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

10.11 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services	27,073,000	22,153,000
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10.12 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is
 10.13 for the Counseling and Case Management
 10.14 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
 10.15 program.

10.16 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**
 10.17 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the
 10.18 following congressionally chartered veterans
 10.19 service organizations as designated by the
 10.20 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,
 10.21 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the
 10.22 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
 10.23 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
 10.24 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding
 10.25 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
 10.26 funding currently being provided by the
 10.27 commissioner to these organizations.

10.28 (c) **Minnesota Assistance Council for**
 10.29 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant
 10.30 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for
 10.31 Veterans to provide assistance throughout
 10.32 Minnesota to veterans and their families who
 10.33 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,
 10.34 including assistance with the following:

11.1 (1) utilities;

11.2 (2) employment; and

11.3 (3) legal issues.

11.4 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
11.5 must be made only to veterans who have
11.6 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to
11.7 application for assistance and according to
11.8 other guidelines established by the
11.9 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication
11.10 of services, the commissioner must ensure that
11.11 this assistance is coordinated with all other
11.12 available programs for veterans.

11.13 **(d) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000
11.14 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year
11.15 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
11.16 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to
11.17 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
11.18 in Redwood Falls.

11.19 **(e) Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for
11.20 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
11.21 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
11.22 197.231.

11.23 **(f) Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is
11.24 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
11.25 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
11.26 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
11.27 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
11.28 197.791.

11.29 **(g) Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
11.30 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
11.31 surviving family members of deceased
11.32 veterans.

- 12.1 **(h) County Veterans Service Office.**
- 12.2 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the
- 12.3 County Veterans Service Office grant program
- 12.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.
- 12.5 **(i) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
- 12.6 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
- 12.7 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
- 12.8 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
- 12.9 housing vouchers and other services to
- 12.10 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
- 12.11 former service members in Minnesota. The
- 12.12 commissioner may contract for program
- 12.13 administration and may establish a vacancy
- 12.14 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
- 12.15 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
- 12.16 \$1,311,000.
- 12.17 **(j) Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a
- 12.18 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
- 12.19 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
- 12.20 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
- 12.21 therapy, transportation, and activities
- 12.22 customized for veterans.
- 12.23 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the
- 12.24 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake
- 12.25 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,
- 12.26 including therapy, transportation, and activities
- 12.27 customized for veterans.
- 12.28 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000
- 12.29 each year is for a grant to the veterans
- 12.30 resilience project. Grant funds must be used
- 12.31 to make eye movement desensitization and
- 12.32 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and,~~
- 12.33 veterans' spouses, current military service
- 12.34 members, and current military service
- 12.35 members' spouses who are suffering from

13.1 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The
13.2 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024
13.3 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

13.4 The veterans resilience project must report to
13.5 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
13.6 chairs and ranking minority members of the
13.7 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
13.8 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
13.9 15 of each year on the program. The report
13.10 must include an overview of the program's
13.11 budget, a detailed explanation of program
13.12 expenditures, the number of veterans and
13.13 service members served by the program, and
13.14 a list and explanation of the services provided
13.15 to program participants.

13.16 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year
13.17 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
13.18 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
13.19 task force must collect, memorialize, and
13.20 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the
13.21 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their
13.22 dependents. The task force must host a
13.23 remembrance program in September 2021.
13.24 This is a onetime appropriation.

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

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

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

13.30 (b) \$754,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2022, chapter
13.31 54, article 1, section 3, subdivision 2, paragraph (k), is canceled to the general fund on June
13.32 30, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14.20 **Sec. 7. FINANCIAL REVIEW OF NONPROFIT GRANT RECIPIENTS REQUIRED.**

14.21 **Subdivision 1. Financial review required.** (a) Before awarding a competitive,
14.22 legislatively named, single-source, or sole-source grant to a nonprofit organization under
14.23 this act, the grantor must require the applicant to submit financial information sufficient for
14.24 the grantor to document and assess the applicant's current financial standing and management.
14.25 Items of significant concern must be addressed with the applicant and resolved to the
14.26 satisfaction of the grantor before a grant is awarded. The grantor must document the material
14.27 requested and reviewed; whether the applicant had a significant operating deficit, a deficit
14.28 in unrestricted net assets, or insufficient internal controls; whether and how the applicant
14.29 resolved the grantor's concerns; and the grantor's final decision. This documentation must
14.30 be maintained in the grantor's files.

14.31 (b) At a minimum, the grantor must require each applicant to provide the following
14.32 information:

15.1 (1) the applicant's most recent Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N filed with the
15.2 Internal Revenue Service. If the applicant has not been in existence long enough or is not
15.3 required to file Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N, the applicant must demonstrate
15.4 to the grantor that the applicant is exempt and must instead submit documentation of internal
15.5 controls and the applicant's most recent financial statement prepared in accordance with
15.6 generally accepted accounting principles and approved by the applicant's board of directors
15.7 or trustees or, if there is no such board, by the applicant's managing group;

15.8 (2) evidence of registration and good standing with the secretary of state under Minnesota
15.9 Statutes, chapter 317A, or other applicable law;

15.10 (3) unless exempt under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.515, evidence of registration
15.11 and good standing with the attorney general under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 309; and

15.12 (4) if required under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.53, subdivision 3, the applicant's
15.13 most recent audited financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted
15.14 accounting principles.

15.15 Subd. 2. **Authority to postpone or forgo.** Notwithstanding any contrary provision in
15.16 this act, a grantor that identifies an area of significant concern regarding the financial standing
15.17 or management of a legislatively named applicant may postpone or forgo awarding the
15.18 grant.

15.19 Subd. 3. **Authority to award subject to additional assistance and oversight.** A grantor
15.20 that identifies an area of significant concern regarding an applicant's financial standing or
15.21 management may award a grant to the applicant if the grantor provides or the grantee
15.22 otherwise obtains additional technical assistance, as needed, and the grantor imposes
15.23 additional requirements in the grant agreement. Additional requirements may include but
15.24 are not limited to enhanced monitoring, additional reporting, or other reasonable requirements
15.25 imposed by the grantor to protect the interests of the state.

15.26 Subd. 4. **Relation to other law and policy.** The requirements in this section are in
15.27 addition to any other requirements imposed by law; the commissioner of administration
15.28 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.97 and 16B.98; or agency policy.

16.1

ARTICLE 2

16.2

VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES

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

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

16.6 (1) grants to veterans service organizations;

16.7 (2) outreach to underserved veterans;

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

16.9 (4) transfers to the vehicle services account for Gold Star license plates under section
16.10 168.1253;

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

16.14 (6) grants to an eligible foundation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17.10 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal
17.11 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal
17.12 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this
17.13 section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17.23 (5) the veteran's estate.

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

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

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

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

18.1 person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated
18.2 beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who
18.3 has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or
18.4 veteran.

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

18.7 (1) an honorable discharge;

18.8 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19.12 (1) \$600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global
19.13 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign
19.14 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

19.15 (2) \$1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War
19.16 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign Medal,
19.17 or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

19.18 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global
19.19 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign
19.20 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus,
19.21 and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or
19.22 condition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20.9 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

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

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

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

20.18 (1) ~~\$3,000~~ \$5,000 per state fiscal year; and

20.19 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21.7 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
21.8 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
21.9 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
21.10 11, 2001;

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

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

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

21.22 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

21.23 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

21.24 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and
21.25 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under
21.26 this subdivision; and

21.27 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person
21.28 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for
21.29 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

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

22.1 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's
22.2 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~
22.3 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22.17 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
22.18 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
22.19 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
22.20 11, 2001;

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

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

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

23.1 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and

23.2 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

23.3 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's
23.4 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~
23.5 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

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