

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1509**

(SENATE AUTHORS: MITCHELL, Klein and Morrison)

DATE  
02/09/2023

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to State and Local Government and Veterans

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to veterans; allowing veterans' spouses and current military service  
1.3 members' spouses to receive eye movement desensitization and reprocessing  
1.4 therapy through the veterans resilience project; appropriating money for a grant  
1.5 to the veterans resilience project; amending Laws 2021, First Special Session  
1.6 chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2.

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

1.8 Section 1. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision  
1.9 2, is amended to read:

1.10 Subd. 2. **Veterans Programs and Services** 27,073,000 22,153,000

1.11 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is  
1.12 for the Counseling and Case Management  
1.13 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
1.14 program.

1.15 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**  
1.16 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the  
1.17 following congressionally chartered veterans  
1.18 service organizations as designated by the  
1.19 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,  
1.20 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the  
1.21 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
1.22 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and  
1.23 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding  
1.24 must be allocated in direct proportion to the

2.1 funding currently being provided by the  
2.2 commissioner to these organizations.

2.3 **(c) Minnesota Assistance Council for**  
2.4 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant  
2.5 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for  
2.6 Veterans to provide assistance throughout  
2.7 Minnesota to veterans and their families who  
2.8 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
2.9 including assistance with the following:

2.10 (1) utilities;

2.11 (2) employment; and

2.12 (3) legal issues.

2.13 The assistance authorized under this paragraph  
2.14 must be made only to veterans who have  
2.15 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to  
2.16 application for assistance and according to  
2.17 other guidelines established by the  
2.18 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication  
2.19 of services, the commissioner must ensure that  
2.20 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
2.21 available programs for veterans.

2.22 **(d) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000  
2.23 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year  
2.24 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these  
2.25 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to  
2.26 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery  
2.27 in Redwood Falls.

2.28 **(e) Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for  
2.29 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
2.30 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
2.31 197.231.

2.32 **(f) Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is  
2.33 for the costs of administering the Minnesota

3.1 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
3.2 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
3.3 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.4 197.791.

3.5 **(g) Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year  
3.6 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
3.7 surviving family members of deceased  
3.8 veterans.

3.9 **(h) County Veterans Service Office.**  
3.10 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the  
3.11 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
3.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

3.13 **(i) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
3.14 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to  
3.15 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The  
3.16 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide  
3.17 housing vouchers and other services to  
3.18 alleviate homelessness among veterans and  
3.19 former service members in Minnesota. The  
3.20 commissioner may contract for program  
3.21 administration and may establish a vacancy  
3.22 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation  
3.23 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is  
3.24 \$1,311,000.

3.25 **(j) Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a  
3.26 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for  
3.27 expenses related to retreats for veterans at  
3.28 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including  
3.29 therapy, transportation, and activities  
3.30 customized for veterans.

3.31 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the  
3.32 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake  
3.33 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,

4.1 including therapy, transportation, and activities  
4.2 customized for veterans.

4.3 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000  
4.4 each year is for a grant to the veterans  
4.5 resilience project. Grant funds must be used  
4.6 to make eye movement desensitization and  
4.7 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and,~~  
4.8 veterans' spouses, current military service  
4.9 members, and current military service  
4.10 members' spouses who are suffering from  
4.11 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The  
4.12 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024  
4.13 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

4.14 The veterans resilience project must report to  
4.15 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
4.16 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
4.17 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
4.18 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
4.19 15 of each year on the program. The report  
4.20 must include an overview of the program's  
4.21 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
4.22 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
4.23 service members served by the program, and  
4.24 a list and explanation of the services provided  
4.25 to program participants.

4.26 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year  
4.27 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and  
4.28 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The  
4.29 task force must collect, memorialize, and  
4.30 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the  
4.31 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their  
4.32 dependents. The task force must host a  
4.33 remembrance program in September 2021.  
4.34 This is a onetime appropriation.

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

5.1      Sec. 2. **VETERANS RESILIENCE PROJECT; APPROPRIATION.**

5.2           \$400,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the  
5.3 general fund to the commissioner of veterans affairs for a grant to the veterans resilience  
5.4 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye movement desensitization and reprocessing  
5.5 therapy available to veterans, veterans' spouses, current military service members, and  
5.6 current military service members' spouses who are suffering from posttraumatic stress  
5.7 disorder and trauma. This appropriation is added to the base.