

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

S.F. No. 2247

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/01/2023	1186	Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government and Veterans
03/23/2023	2274	Author added Gustafson
04/03/2023	2846a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance
04/18/2023		Comm report: To pass as amended Second reading

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 establishing the veteran domiciliary resident quality of care working group;

1.6 amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 197.79, subdivisions 1, 2, by adding

1.7 a subdivision; 197.791, subdivisions 5, 6, 7; Laws 2021, First Special Session

1.8 chapter 12, article 1, section 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 APPROPRIATIONS**

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.

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
	<u>Available for the Year</u>	
	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
1.24	Sec. 2. <u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>	
1.25	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ 56,135,000 \$ 28,717,000</u>

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following
 2.3 subdivisions. The base is \$27,017,000 in fiscal
 2.4 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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

2.6 Subd. 3. **General Support** 31,970,000 4,539,000

2.7 (a) **MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).**
 2.8 \$582,000 the first year and \$590,000 the
 2.9 second year are for administrative and payroll
 2.10 costs to create and operate a Cyber
 2.11 Coordination Cell in the Minnesota National
 2.12 Guard.

2.13 (b) \$17,600,000 the first year is for predesign,
 2.14 design, construction, furnishing and equipping
 2.15 costs for an Army Combat Fitness Test Field
 2.16 House.

2.17 (c) **Minnesota Military Museum at Camp**
 2.18 **Ripley.** \$10,000,000 the first year is for the
 2.19 design and construction of the Minnesota
 2.20 military museum at Camp Ripley. This
 2.21 appropriation is in addition to the
 2.22 appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth
 2.23 Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section
 2.24 14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This
 2.25 is a onetime appropriation and is available
 2.26 until June 30, 2027.

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

2.28 The appropriations in this subdivision are
 2.29 available until June 30, 2027. The base for this
 2.30 appropriation is \$12,114,000 in fiscal year
 2.31 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

2.32 If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is
 2.33 insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available
 2.34 in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered

3.1 balance does not cancel at the end of the first
 3.2 year and is available for the second year.

3.3 **Subd. 5. Emergency Services** 600,000 500,000

3.4 **Sustain Domestic Operations**

3.5 **Communication Capabilities.** For ongoing
 3.6 replacement of communications systems to
 3.7 support domestic operations when ordered
 3.8 into state service by the governor. The base
 3.9 for this appropriation is \$300,000 in fiscal year
 3.10 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.11 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3.12 **Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation** **\$ 149,638,000 \$ 133,702,000**

3.13 The amounts that may be spent for each
 3.14 purpose are specified in the following
 3.15 subdivisions. The base is \$123,346,000 in
 3.16 fiscal year 2026 and \$124,394,000 in fiscal
 3.17 year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.18 **Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services** 60,184,000 31,634,000

3.19 The amounts that may be spent for each
 3.20 purpose are specified in the following
 3.21 subdivisions. The base is \$30,109,000 in fiscal
 3.22 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.23 **(a) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$4,282,000
 3.24 each year is for the operation of the state's
 3.25 veterans cemeteries. The base for this
 3.26 appropriation is \$3,782,000 in fiscal year 2026
 3.27 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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

4.1 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
4.2 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
4.3 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding
4.4 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
4.5 funding currently being provided by the
4.6 commissioner to these organizations.

4.7 (c) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for
4.8 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
4.9 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
4.10 197.231.

4.11 (d) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is
4.12 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
4.13 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
4.14 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
4.15 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
4.16 197.791.

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

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

4.25 (g) **Camp Bliss.** \$150,000 each year is for a
4.26 grant to Camp Bliss for expenses related to
4.27 retreats for veterans, including therapy,
4.28 transportation, and activities customized for
4.29 veterans.

4.30 (h) **Grants for ADA Compliance.** \$2,000,000
4.31 the first year is for the commissioner to make
4.32 grants to congressionally chartered veterans
4.33 service organizations for the purpose of
4.34 making veterans service organization buildings

5.1 comply with the Americans with Disabilities
5.2 Act. The commissioner must not award a
5.3 grantee more than \$100,000 under this
5.4 appropriation. A grantee must use funds
5.5 received under this appropriation for a
5.6 building owned by the grantee.

5.7 (i) **Veterans on the Lake.** \$50,000 each year
5.8 is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for
5.9 expenses related to retreats for veterans,
5.10 including therapy, transportation, and activities
5.11 customized for veterans. These are onetime
5.12 appropriations.

5.13 (j) **Veteran Resilience Project.** \$300,000 each
5.14 year is for a grant to the veteran resilience
5.15 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye
5.16 movement desensitization and reprocessing
5.17 therapy available to veterans, veterans'
5.18 spouses, current military service members,
5.19 and current military service members' spouses
5.20 who are suffering from posttraumatic stress
5.21 disorder and trauma.

5.22 The veteran resilience project must report to
5.23 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
5.24 chairs and ranking minority members of the
5.25 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
5.26 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
5.27 15 of each year on the program. The report
5.28 must include an overview of the program's
5.29 budget, a detailed explanation of program
5.30 expenditures, the number of veterans and
5.31 service members served by the program, and
5.32 a list and explanation of the services provided
5.33 to program participants.

5.34 (k) **CORE Program.** \$1,475,000 each year
5.35 is for the Counseling and Case Management

6.1 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
6.2 program. These amounts are available until
6.3 June 30, 2027. The base for this appropriation
6.4 is \$975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal
6.5 year thereafter.

6.6 (l) **LinkVet Call Center.** \$499,000 each year
6.7 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call
6.8 Center.

6.9 (m) **Recently Separated Veterans Program.**
6.10 \$350,000 the first year and \$300,000 the
6.11 second year are for operation of the recently
6.12 separated veterans program. The commissioner
6.13 of veterans affairs may use Department of
6.14 Defense and other veteran data that were
6.15 provided with an appropriate disclosure to
6.16 assist with connecting veterans to resources
6.17 and new programming. The commissioner
6.18 may use money for personnel, research,
6.19 marketing, technology solutions, and
6.20 professional or technical contracts.

6.21 (n) **Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.**
6.22 \$1,450,000 each year is to operate the
6.23 homeless veteran registry and homeless
6.24 programs and to assist veterans, former service
6.25 members, and their dependents with obtaining
6.26 federal benefits through the Social Security
6.27 Administration. The commissioner of veterans
6.28 affairs may use money for personnel, training,
6.29 research, marketing, and professional or
6.30 technical contracts. These amounts are
6.31 available until June 30, 2027. The base for this
6.32 appropriation is \$975,000 in fiscal year 2026
6.33 and each fiscal year thereafter.

6.34 (o) **Minnesota Assistance Council for**
6.35 **Veterans.** \$9,325,000 the first year and

7.1 \$1,075,000 the second year are for grants to
7.2 the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
7.3 to provide assistance throughout Minnesota
7.4 to veterans and their families who are
7.5 homeless or in danger of homelessness,
7.6 including assistance with:
7.7 (1) supportive services to maintain housing;
7.8 (2) employment;
7.9 (3) legal issues;
7.10 (4) housing and housing-related costs;
7.11 (5) transportation;
7.12 (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent
7.13 supportive housing; and
7.14 (7) property management of permanent
7.15 supportive housing.
7.16 Of these amounts, \$8,000,000 the first year is
7.17 for the establishment of permanent supportive
7.18 housing options for homeless veterans and
7.19 former service members. This is a onetime
7.20 appropriation and is available until June 30,
7.21 2026. \$250,000 the first year is for the direct
7.22 veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime
7.23 appropriation. Any unencumbered balance
7.24 remaining in this subdivision in the first year
7.25 for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council
7.26 for Veterans does not cancel and is available
7.27 for the second year. The base is \$1,075,000
7.28 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year
7.29 thereafter. Assistance authorized under this
7.30 paragraph must be provided only to a veteran
7.31 who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior
7.32 to the veteran's application for assistance and
7.33 according to other guidelines established by

8.1 the commissioner. To avoid duplication of
 8.2 services, the commissioner must ensure that
 8.3 this assistance is coordinated with all other
 8.4 available programs for veterans.

8.5 **(p) Veterans Bonus Program. \$15,000,000**
 8.6 the first year is for service bonuses to
 8.7 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families
 8.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This
 8.9 is a onetime appropriation and is available
 8.10 until June 30, 2024.

8.11 **(q) Metro Meals on Wheels. \$540,000 each**
 8.12 year is for a grant to Metro Meals on Wheels
 8.13 to provide: (1) home-delivered meals to
 8.14 veterans; and (2) technical, enrollment,
 8.15 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance
 8.16 to member programs. Metro Meals on Wheels
 8.17 must report to the commissioner of veterans
 8.18 affairs and the chairs and ranking minority
 8.19 members of the legislative committees with
 8.20 jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and
 8.21 finance by September 1 each year with a
 8.22 detailed explanation of how the grant money
 8.23 was used and the number of veterans and
 8.24 service members served by the program.

8.25 **(r) Vietnam War Anniversary. \$250,000 the**
 8.26 first year is to prepare and host a
 8.27 commemoration program for the fiftieth
 8.28 anniversary of the Vietnam War.

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

8.33 Subd. 3. **Veterans Health Care** 89,454,000 102,068,000

9.1 (a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal
9.2 year 2026 is \$93,237,000 and \$94,285,000 in
9.3 fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

9.4 (b) \$87,964,000 the first year and
9.5 \$100,768,000 the second year may be
9.6 transferred to a veterans homes special
9.7 revenue account in the special revenue fund
9.8 in the same manner as other receipts are
9.9 deposited according to Minnesota Statutes,
9.10 section 198.34, and are appropriated to the
9.11 commissioner of veterans affairs for the
9.12 operation of veterans homes facilities and
9.13 programs. The base for this transfer is
9.14 \$92,437,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
9.15 \$93,485,000 in fiscal year 2027.

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

9.25 (d) \$750,000 each year are for the department
9.26 to staff Veteran Community Health Navigators
9.27 in community-based hospitals. These amounts
9.28 are available until June 30, 2027. The base for
9.29 this appropriation is \$250,000 in fiscal year
9.30 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

9.31 (e) \$190,000 the first year is for the working
9.32 group established under article 2, section 8.

10.1 Sec. 4. CANCELLATION; FISCAL YEAR 2023.

10.2 \$3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2021, First
 10.3 Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), is canceled
 10.4 to the general fund by June 30, 2023.

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

10.6 **ARTICLE 2**

10.7 **VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES**

10.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

10.11 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal
 10.12 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal
 10.13 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this
 10.14 section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.24 (5) the veteran's estate.

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

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

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

10.29 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor
 10.30 or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or institution in which

11.1 the incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized to accept money for the benefit
 11.2 of the minor or incapacitated veteran, the person determined by the commissioner to be the
 11.3 person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated
 11.4 beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who
 11.5 has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or
 11.6 veteran.

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

11.9 (1) an honorable discharge;

11.10 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

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

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

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

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

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

11.30 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an
 11.31 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United
 11.32 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) has

12.1 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record in the veteran's official military personnel
12.2 file.

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

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

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

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

12.14 (1) \$600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global
12.15 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign
12.16 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

12.17 (2) \$1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War
12.18 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign Medal,
12.19 or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

12.20 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global
12.21 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign
12.22 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus,
12.23 and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or
12.24 condition.

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

12.27 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, is amended by adding a subdivision to
12.28 read:

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

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

13.2 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

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

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

13.10 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

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

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

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

13.19 (1) ~~\$3,000~~ \$5,000 per state fiscal year; and

13.20 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

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

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

13.28 Subd. 6. **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation
13.29 with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry,
13.30 shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer

14.1 a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as
14.2 provided in this subdivision.

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

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

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

14.9 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
14.10 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
14.11 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
14.12 11, 2001;

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

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

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

14.24 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

14.25 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

14.26 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and
14.27 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under
14.28 this subdivision; and

14.29 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person
14.30 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for
14.31 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

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

15.3 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's
15.4 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~
15.5 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15.19 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
15.20 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
15.21 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
15.22 11, 2001;

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

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

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

16.3 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and

16.4 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

16.5 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's
 16.6 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~
 16.7 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16.22 Sec. 7. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,
 16.23 is amended to read:

16.24	Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services	27,073,000	22,153,000
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16.25 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is
 16.26 for the Counseling and Case Management
 16.27 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
 16.28 program.

16.29 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**
 16.30 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the
 16.31 following congressionally chartered veterans

17.1 service organizations as designated by the
17.2 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,
17.3 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the
17.4 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
17.5 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
17.6 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding
17.7 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
17.8 funding currently being provided by the
17.9 commissioner to these organizations.

17.10 **(c) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
17.11 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant
17.12 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for
17.13 Veterans to provide assistance throughout
17.14 Minnesota to veterans and their families who
17.15 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,
17.16 including assistance with the following:

- 17.17 (1) utilities;
17.18 (2) employment; and
17.19 (3) legal issues.

17.20 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
17.21 must be made only to veterans who have
17.22 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to
17.23 application for assistance and according to
17.24 other guidelines established by the
17.25 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication
17.26 of services, the commissioner must ensure that
17.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other
17.28 available programs for veterans.

17.29 **(d) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000
17.30 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year
17.31 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
17.32 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to
17.33 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
17.34 in Redwood Falls.

18.1 (e) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for
18.2 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
18.3 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
18.4 197.231.

18.5 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is
18.6 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
18.7 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
18.8 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
18.9 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
18.10 197.791.

18.11 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
18.12 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
18.13 surviving family members of deceased
18.14 veterans.

18.15 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**
18.16 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the
18.17 County Veterans Service Office grant program
18.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

18.19 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
18.20 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
18.21 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
18.22 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
18.23 housing vouchers and other services to
18.24 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
18.25 former service members in Minnesota. The
18.26 commissioner may contract for program
18.27 administration and may establish a vacancy
18.28 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
18.29 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
18.30 \$1,311,000.

18.31 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a
18.32 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
18.33 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
18.34 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including

- 19.1 therapy, transportation, and activities
- 19.2 customized for veterans.
- 19.3 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the
- 19.4 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake
- 19.5 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,
- 19.6 including therapy, transportation, and activities
- 19.7 customized for veterans.
- 19.8 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000
- 19.9 each year is for a grant to the veterans
- 19.10 resilience project. Grant funds must be used
- 19.11 to make eye movement desensitization and
- 19.12 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and,~~
- 19.13 veterans' spouses, current military service
- 19.14 members, and current military service
- 19.15 members' spouses who are suffering from
- 19.16 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The
- 19.17 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024
- 19.18 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.
- 19.19 The veterans resilience project must report to
- 19.20 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
- 19.21 chairs and ranking minority members of the
- 19.22 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
- 19.23 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
- 19.24 15 of each year on the program. The report
- 19.25 must include an overview of the program's
- 19.26 budget, a detailed explanation of program
- 19.27 expenditures, the number of veterans and
- 19.28 service members served by the program, and
- 19.29 a list and explanation of the services provided
- 19.30 to program participants.
- 19.31 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year
- 19.32 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
- 19.33 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
- 19.34 task force must collect, memorialize, and
- 19.35 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the

20.1 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their
 20.2 dependents. The task force must host a
 20.3 remembrance program in September 2021.
 20.4 This is a onetime appropriation.

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

20.6 Sec. 8. **VETERAN DOMICILIARY RESIDENT QUALITY OF CARE WORKING**
 20.7 **GROUP.**

20.8 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The veteran domiciliary resident quality of care working group
 20.9 consists of the following members:

20.10 (1) commissioners of the following agencies, or their designees:

20.11 (i) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

20.12 (ii) the Department of Health;

20.13 (2) two Department of Veterans Affairs staff with expertise in veterans homes, appointed
 20.14 by the commissioner of veterans affairs;

20.15 (3) two Department of Health staff with expertise in boarding care homes, specifically
 20.16 the licensure of the domiciliary and related standards of care, appointed by the commissioner
 20.17 of health;

20.18 (4) five medical professionals, including a medical doctor, a nurse, a mental health
 20.19 professional, and two other health care professionals, with expertise in veterans health care,
 20.20 appointed by the governor;

20.21 (5) up to three past or current domiciliary staff with experience caring for residents
 20.22 appointed by the governor; and

20.23 (6) four public members who have an interest in veterans affairs, including two public
 20.24 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two public members
 20.25 appointed by the majority leader of the senate.

20.26 Subd. 2. **Duties.** The working group shall meet on a regular basis and the first meeting
 20.27 must be no later than 45 days after the effective date of this section. The working group
 20.28 shall review and analyze the acuity of domiciliary residents and the current care model,
 20.29 including admission, care plans, and day-to-day care, and the current staffing structure and
 20.30 ratios. The working group shall provide recommendations on:

20.31 (1) staffing levels that are necessary to properly care for the range of acuity of residents;

21.1 (2) a care delivery model that focuses on appropriate and adequate care for residents;

21.2 (3) additional and ongoing training for domiciliary staff;

21.3 (4) sufficient management structure to ensure support and provide guidance to staff; and

21.4 (5) outcomes to determine if staffing levels and care delivery are appropriate or if, based

21.5 on the outcomes, adjustments are necessary.

21.6 The working group shall provide information and recommendations to the legislature

21.7 by January 15, 2024, by which the legislature can use as a foundation to make decisions

21.8 and effectuate change that will ensure the standard of care and staffing levels are sufficient

21.9 for the different resident acuity levels who are being cared for in the domiciliary.

21.10 Subd. 3. **Administrative provisions.** (a) The commissioner of veterans affairs or the

21.11 commissioner's designee must convene the initial meeting of the working group. Upon

21.12 request of the working group, the commissioner must provide meeting space and

21.13 administrative services for the group. The members of the working group must elect a chair

21.14 or cochair from the members of the working group at the initial meeting.

21.15 (b) Public members of the working group serve without compensation or payment of

21.16 expenses.

21.17 (c) The working group expires January 15, 2024, or upon submission of the report

21.18 required under subdivision 2, whichever is earlier.

21.19 (d) The working group may accept gifts and grants, which are accepted on behalf of the

21.20 state and constitute donations to the state. Funds received under this paragraph are

21.21 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans affairs for purposes of the working group.

21.22 Subd. 4. **Deadline for appointments and designations.** The appointments and

21.23 designations authorized by this section must be completed by August 1, 2023.