



2026 HF3741 (Hill) Veterans Education Program Consolidation

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

This bill seeks to modernize statutory references for Veterans Higher Education Programs that exist in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 197.

This is done through the consolidation of a seldom used State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP) Veterans Education Benefit. It would:

- Clarify changes to the continued existence of the current Surviving Spouse and Dependent Education Benefit
- Consolidate the Veterans Education Appropriations authority
- Include technical and administrative updates

WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

This bill incorporates the recommendations from a comprehensive Wilder Foundation led study on Minnesota Veterans education benefits that included stakeholders and others involved in supporting Minnesota Veterans.

Sunsetting the one-time \$750 SSAP Veterans Education Benefit will have minimal impact. It has become a rarely used benefit due to being offset by the increased benefits for the Minnesota GI Bill and changes to Federal post-9/11 GI Bill that removed the 15-year time limit. The Surviving Spouse and Dependent Education Benefit will remain in place.

By making updates to Veteran education statutes there will be a more standardized eligibility criteria, stipend amounts and program requirements. In addition, the consolidation of Veterans education appropriation authority will allow these funds to be expended from the Minnesota GI Bill program's section of statute.

These changes will allow for a more simplified benefit application and administration process for Veterans and their families.

HOW WILL MINNESOTANS BE BETTER OFF IF WE PASS THIS BILL?

Minnesota Veterans and their families will benefit from a modernized and streamlined approach to administering Veterans education benefits.

MINNESOTA VETERANS STATE BILL TRACKER

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs offers a state bill tracker. This tracker follows bills of interest to Veterans that have been introduced in the Minnesota Legislature.

View the online bill tracker at mn.gov/mdva/news/legislative-updates/state-bill-tracker/



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