

HF2410 - 0 - Education Benefits to Surviving Spouses Modified

Chief Author: **Matt Bliss**
 Committee: **State Government Finance And Policy - Veterans And Military Affairs Division**
 Date Completed: **3/10/2025 11:07:46 AM**
 Agency: **Veterans Affairs Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
General Fund	-	8	8	8	8
Total	-	8	8	8	8
Biennial Total			16		16

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Alyssa Holterman Rosas **Date:** 3/10/2025 11:07:46 AM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	8	8	8	8	8
Total	-	8	8	8	8	8
Biennial Total				16		16
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	8	8	8	8	8
Total	-	8	8	8	8	8
Biennial Total				16		16
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

This bill will remove the limitation of surviving spouses of a Veteran who died from service or a service-connected condition from remarrying to still be eligible for the benefit.

2.25 (iii) the surviving spouse, whether unmarried or remarried, or child of a person who has served in the military and who has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; 2.26 2.27 2.28 2.29

Assumptions

Minor impact to the Surviving Spouse/Dependent Education stipend program. Based on SSAP Dependent Education Voucher (i.e., VATS data for the Education Stipend) data between FY18-22 the Agency fields an average of five (5) Spouse/Surviving Spouse education claims annually. Of note: Spouse/Surviving Spouse education applications constitute only 12.15% of the SSAP Dependent Education claims.

MDVA assumes that the Surviving Spouse/Dependent Education stipend amount of \$750 will stay the same with this bill.

We do not know the number of spouses that remarried and that is not tracked by our system (VATS) nor the USDVA.

There would be no change to the MN GI Bill as that it is still tied to 38 USC 33 and 38 USC 35 definition.

It is assumed that the bill will go into effect July 1, 2025.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Based on empirical data, the MDVA projects the cost to be similar to the current FY 18-22, or up to 10 claims.

Benefit amount - \$750.

\$750 x 10 claims = \$7,500 per year

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Ongoing

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

United States Code, title 38, chapter 33; as amended

United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; 2.26 2.27 2.28 2.29

I have reviewed the content of this fiscal note and believe it is a reasonable estimate of the expenditures and revenues associated with this proposed legislation.

If Information Technology costs are included, my agency's Chief Information Officer has reviewed the estimate.

Agency Contact:

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Jennifer Brau

Date: 3/10/2025 10:29:00 AM

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