

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 4324 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "ARTICLE 1
1.4 APPROPRIATIONS

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

1.6 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are added to or, if shown in
1.7 parentheses, subtracted from the appropriations in Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter
1.8 12, article 1, to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations
1.9 are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years
1.10 indicated for each purpose. The figures "2022" and "2023" used in this article mean that
1.11 the addition to or subtraction from the appropriation listed under them is available for the
1.12 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal
1.13 year end June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively. Supplemental appropriations and
1.14 reductions to appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, are effective the day
1.15 following final enactment.

1.16	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>
1.17	<u>Available for the Year</u>
1.18	<u>Ending June 30</u>
1.19	<u>2022</u> <u>2023</u>

1.20 Sec. 2. MILITARY AFFAIRS

1.21 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ \$ 2,865,000

1.22 The base is increased \$3,242,000 in fiscal year
1.23 2024 and each year thereafter.

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following
 2.3 subdivisions.

2.4 **Subd. 2. General Support** 865,000

2.5 **(a) Holistic Health and Fitness Program.**
 2.6 \$765,000 in fiscal year 2023 is for
 2.7 administrative and payroll costs to create and
 2.8 operate Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F)
 2.9 initiatives across the Minnesota Army National
 2.10 Guard.

2.11 The base for this program is \$742,000 in fiscal
 2.12 year 2024 and each year thereafter.

2.13 **(b) USS Minneapolis-St. Paul**
 2.14 **Commissioning.** \$100,000 in fiscal year 2023
 2.15 is for a grant to the Minnesota Navy League
 2.16 to support activities related to the
 2.17 commissioning of the USS Minneapolis-St.
 2.18 Paul. This is a onetime appropriation.

2.19 **Subd. 3. Enlistment Incentives** 2,000,000

2.20 \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated
 2.21 from the general fund to the adjutant general
 2.22 of military affairs for the purpose of providing
 2.23 enlistment incentives to attract highly qualified
 2.24 candidates for enlistment in the Minnesota
 2.25 National Guard. The base for this
 2.26 appropriation is \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2024
 2.27 and thereafter.

2.28 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

2.29 **Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation** **\$** **500,000** **\$** **40,514,000**

2.30 The base is increased \$10,809,000 for fiscal
 2.31 year 2024 and \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

3.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 3.2 purpose are specified in the following
 3.3 subdivisions.

3.4 **Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services** 500,000 40,514,000

3.5 **(a) Base Adjustment.** The base is increased
 3.6 \$10,809,000 in fiscal year 2024 and
 3.7 \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

3.8 **(b) Veterans Bonus Program.** \$24,880,000
 3.9 in fiscal year 2023 is for service bonuses to
 3.10 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families
 3.11 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This
 3.12 is a onetime appropriation.

3.13 **(c) Veterans Service Organizations Grant**
 3.14 **Program.** \$147,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
 3.15 each year thereafter is for grants to
 3.16 congressionally chartered veterans service
 3.17 organizations meeting eligibility requirements
 3.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.61,
 3.19 subdivision 3, as designated by the
 3.20 commissioner.

3.21 **(d) County Veterans Service Office Grant**
 3.22 **Program.** \$450,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
 3.23 each year thereafter is for funding the County
 3.24 Veterans Service Office grant program under
 3.25 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

3.26 **(e) Fisher House.** \$500,000 in fiscal year
 3.27 2023 is for the purpose of supporting the
 3.28 creation of a new Fisher House near the Fargo
 3.29 Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center
 3.30 campus. The facility will provide temporary
 3.31 accommodations at no charge to families and
 3.32 caregivers of veterans receiving care at the
 3.33 Fargo VA Health Care System. This is a
 3.34 onetime appropriation and is available until

4.1 the project is completed or abandoned, subject
4.2 to Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.642.

4.3 **(f) Redwood Falls State Veterans Cemetery.**
4.4 \$830,000 in fiscal year 2023 and each year
4.5 thereafter is for operations of the state's
4.6 veterans cemeteries including operations in
4.7 Redwood County.

4.8 **(g) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
4.9 **Veterans. \$8,800,000 in fiscal year 2023 is**
4.10 **for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance**
4.11 **Council for Veterans to provide assistance**
4.12 **throughout Minnesota to veterans and former**
4.13 **service members and their families who are**
4.14 **homeless or in danger of homelessness,**
4.15 **including assistance with the following:**

4.16 **(1) supportive services to maintain housing;**
4.17 **(2) employment;**
4.18 **(3) legal issues;**
4.19 **(4) housing and housing-related costs; and**
4.20 **(5) transportation.**

4.21 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
4.22 must be made only to veterans or former
4.23 service members who have resided in
4.24 Minnesota for 30 days prior to application for
4.25 assistance and according to other guidelines
4.26 established by the commissioner. In order to
4.27 avoid duplication of services, the
4.28 commissioner must ensure that this assistance
4.29 is coordinated with all other available
4.30 programs for veterans.

4.31 This appropriation must be used for the
4.32 establishment and management of permanent

5.1 supportive housing options for homeless
5.2 veterans and former service members.

5.3 The base in fiscal year 2024 is \$4,200,000 and
5.4 each year thereafter is \$1,200,000.

5.5 Any unencumbered balance remaining in this
5.6 subdivision in fiscal year 2023 is available in
5.7 fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

5.8 **(h) Increase Engagement and Outreach**
5.9 **Activities; Support Temporary Housing**
5.10 **Options.** \$1,714,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
5.11 each year thereafter is for temporary
5.12 alternative housing options for homeless
5.13 veterans and former service members, and for
5.14 staff to increase outreach activities to end
5.15 homelessness. The commissioner of veterans
5.16 affairs may use funds for personnel, research,
5.17 marketing, and professional or technical
5.18 contracts.

5.19 **(i) Tenancy Supports and Landlord**
5.20 **Engagement.** \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2023
5.21 is for incentives for landlords to assist in
5.22 housing homeless veterans and former service
5.23 members, staff, and funding to remove barriers
5.24 to permanent housing. The commissioner of
5.25 veterans affairs may use funds for financial
5.26 assistance, personnel, research, marketing, and
5.27 professional or technical contracts. The base
5.28 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
5.29 \$975,000.

5.30 **(j) Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention**
5.31 **Initiative.** \$2,125,000 in fiscal year 2023 is
5.32 to address the problem of death by suicide
5.33 among veterans in Minnesota. The
5.34 commissioner of veterans affairs may use

6.1 funds for personnel, training, research,
6.2 marketing, and professional or technical
6.3 contracts. Of this amount, the commissioner
6.4 may use up to:

6.5 (1) \$400,000 to initiate a veteran connections
6.6 pilot project by issuing a request for proposals
6.7 to identify a community-based, mobile, mental
6.8 health, and recovery tool to provide a secure
6.9 environment for veterans to connect with other
6.10 veterans; and

6.11 (2) \$150,000 to educate and cooperate with
6.12 firearms dealers in reducing veteran suicides
6.13 by firearm, including developing a plan for
6.14 the safe storage of veteran-owned firearms
6.15 when a veteran is in crisis.

6.16 The base for this appropriation is \$2,025,000
6.17 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,175,000 in fiscal
6.18 year 2025.

6.19 (k) **Metro Meals on Wheels.** \$468,000 in
6.20 fiscal year 2023 is for a grant to Metro Meals
6.21 on Wheels to provide:

6.22 (1) home-delivered meals to veterans; and
6.23 (2) technical, enrollment, fund-raising,
6.24 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance
6.25 to member programs.

6.26 The base appropriation is \$468,000 in fiscal
6.27 year 2024 and \$0 in fiscal year 2025.

7.1 **ARTICLE 2**

7.2 **VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS POLICY**

7.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

7.4 Subd. 4. **Grant process.** (a) The commissioner shall determine the process for awarding
7.5 grants. A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the operations of the County
7.6 Veterans Service Office.

7.7 (b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as
7.8 developed in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant under subdivision 6 only for a qualifying
7.9 use and if there are sufficient funds remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount
7.10 of the grant.

7.11 (c) The commissioner is authorized to use any unexpended funding for this program to
7.12 ~~provide training and education for county veterans service officers.~~ for the following
7.13 purposes:

7.14 (1) to provide training and education for county veterans service officers; and

7.15 (2) to provide additional grants on a competitive basis to any county that proposes to
7.16 provide programs and services that the commissioner determines to be new and innovative
7.17 in serving veterans and their families.

7.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

7.19 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each county is eligible to receive an annual grant of \$7,500
7.20 for the following purposes:

7.21 (1) to provide outreach to the county's veterans;

7.22 (2) to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society;

7.23 (3) to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other
7.24 community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans;

7.25 (4) to reduce homelessness among veterans; and

7.26 (5) to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office.

7.27 (b) In addition to the grant amount in paragraph (a), each county is eligible to receive
7.28 an additional annual grant under this paragraph. The amount of each additional annual grant
7.29 must be determined by the commissioner and may not exceed:

7.30 (1) \$0, if the county's veteran population is less than 1,000;

- 8.1 (2) \$2,500, if the county's veteran population is 1,000 or more but less than 3,000;
- 8.2 (3) \$5,000, if the county's veteran population is 3,000 or more but less than ~~4,999~~ 5,000;
- 8.3 (4) \$7,500, if the county's veteran population is 5,000 or more but less than ~~9,999~~ 10,000;
- 8.4 (5) \$10,000, if the county's veteran population is 10,000 or more but less than ~~19,999~~
- 8.5 20,000;
- 8.6 (6) \$15,000, if the county's veteran population is 20,000 or more but less than ~~29,999~~
- 8.7 30,000; or
- 8.8 (7) \$20,000, if the county's veteran population is 30,000 or more.

8.9 (c) The Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers is eligible to receive

8.10 an annual grant of ~~\$50,000~~ \$100,000. The grant shall be used for administrative costs of

8.11 the association, certification of mandated county veterans service officer training and

8.12 accreditation, and costs associated with reintegration services.

8.13 The veteran population of each county shall be determined by the figure supplied by the

8.14 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as adopted by the commissioner.

8.15 **Sec. 3. [197.61] VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.**

8.16 Subdivision 1. Grant program. A veterans service organization grant program is

8.17 established to provide grants to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations

8.18 (VSO) to enhance the effectiveness of veterans services. The program shall be administered

8.19 by the commissioner of veterans affairs.

8.20 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the

8.21 meanings given them.

8.22 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs or

8.23 designee.

8.24 (c) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

8.25 (d) "Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations" are organizations that

8.26 have been granted charters by Congress through the enactment of public laws. Each

8.27 congressionally chartered VSO is listed in United States Code, title 36, subtitle II: Patriotic

8.28 and National Organizations.

8.29 (e) "VA" means the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

8.30 (f) "Accredited representation" means providing representation under the authority

8.31 granted by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to representatives, agents,

9.1 and attorneys to assist claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims
9.2 for VA benefits.

9.3 (g) "Full member" means a veteran who meets the requirements for membership in a
9.4 congressionally chartered veterans service organization and is entitled to all of the rights
9.5 and privileges thereof. Full member does not include an associate or auxiliary member.

9.6 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a grant under subdivision 6, a veterans service
9.7 organization must provide:

9.8 (1) accredited representation for the preparation and presentation of veteran claims to
9.9 the United States government for compensation and other benefits to which a veteran is
9.10 entitled as a result of the veteran's military service;

9.11 (2) a state or department level veterans service officer to provide programs and services
9.12 to veterans; or

9.13 (3) statewide transportation services to veterans.

9.14 Subd. 4. **Grant process.** (a) A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the
9.15 operations of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations.

9.16 (b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as
9.17 required in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant for a qualifying use if there is sufficient
9.18 grant money remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount of the grant.

9.19 Subd. 5. **Qualifying uses.** The commissioner shall develop a list of qualifying uses for
9.20 grants awarded under this section.

9.21 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each congressionally chartered veterans service organization
9.22 is eligible to receive an annual grant determined by the commissioner as follows:

9.23 (1) a dollar amount per full member for each organization member to be established by
9.24 the commissioner. The dollar amount may be adjusted every biennium, subject to available
9.25 funding; and

9.26 (2) a dollar amount for each organization, established by the commissioner, based on
9.27 the organization's share of the VA claims workload for veterans and their dependents who
9.28 reside in Minnesota. The VA claims workload must be reported as a percentage of the state's
9.29 total VA workload.

9.30 (b) The VA claims workload for each congressionally chartered veterans service
9.31 organization must be determined by a report supplied by the VA, as adopted by the
9.32 commissioner.

10.1 Subd. 7. **Recapture.** If a congressionally chartered veterans service organization fails
10.2 to use the grant for a qualified use approved by the commissioner or does not spend the
10.3 allocated grant money, the commissioner shall seek recovery of the grant from the
10.4 organization and the organization must repay the grant amount or any unused grant money.

10.5 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.21 (5) the veteran's estate.

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

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

10.24 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from ~~August 2, 1990, to July 31,~~
10.25 ~~1991~~ September 11, 2001, to August 30, 2021.

10.26 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor
10.27 or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or
10.28 institution in which the ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized
10.29 to accept money for the benefit of the minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the person
10.30 determined by the commissioner to be the person who is legally charged with the
10.31 responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran,

11.1 or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who has assumed the
 11.2 responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran.

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

11.5 (1) an honorable discharge;

11.6 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

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

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

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

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

11.17 (1) has been separated or discharged from the United States armed forces, and ~~whose~~
 11.18 ~~home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the United States armed forces, as~~
 11.19 ~~indicated on the person's form DD-214 or other documents the commissioner may authorize,~~
 11.20 ~~is the state of Minnesota~~ has lived in Minnesota for at least 30 days at the time of application
 11.21 with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant
 11.22 may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license, a state
 11.23 identification card, a voter registration card, a rent receipt, a statement by the landlord,
 11.24 apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address,
 11.25 or other form of verification approved by the commissioner; or

11.26 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an
 11.27 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United
 11.28 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) ~~had~~ has
 11.29 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record ~~at the time of entry into active duty in the~~
 11.30 ~~United States armed forces~~ in the veteran's official military personnel file.

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

12.1 ~~(k)~~ (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447, and does not include a
 12.2 member of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces
 12.3 ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes:

12.4 (1) a person who is providing honorable service on active duty in the United States
 12.5 armed forces and has not been separated or discharged; ~~or,~~

12.6 ~~(2) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including~~
 12.7 ~~the National Guard, who was ordered to active duty under United States Code, title 10,~~
 12.8 ~~section 673b, during the eligibility period for the bonus and who was deployed to a duty~~
 12.9 ~~station outside the state of Minnesota, as verified by the appropriate service authority. An~~
 12.10 ~~applicant's DD-214 form showing eligibility for or award of the Southwest Asia service~~
 12.11 ~~medal during the eligibility period for the bonus will suffice as verification.~~

12.12 "Veteran" ~~does not include a member of the National Guard or the reserve components~~
 12.13 ~~of the United States armed forces ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training.~~

12.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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

12.18 (1) ~~\$300~~ \$600, if the veteran did not receive the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
 12.19 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
 12.20 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

12.21 (2) ~~\$600~~ \$1200, if the veteran received the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed Forces
 12.22 Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal,
 12.23 or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

12.24 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
 12.25 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
 12.26 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus, and
 12.27 died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or
 12.28 condition.

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

12.31 (c) ~~No payment may be made to a veteran or beneficiary who has received a similar~~
 12.32 ~~bonus payment from another state.~~

13.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

13.2 Subd. 3. **Application process.** A veteran, or the beneficiary of a veteran, entitled to a
13.3 bonus may make application for a bonus to the department ~~on a form~~ as prescribed by the
13.4 commissioner and verified by the applicant. If the veteran is ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated or
13.5 the veteran's beneficiary is a minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the application must be
13.6 made by the person's guardian or conservator. An application must be accompanied by
13.7 evidence of residency, honorable service, active duty service during the eligibility period
13.8 for the bonus, and any other information the commissioner requires. The applicant must
13.9 indicate on the application form the bonus amount for which the applicant expects to be
13.10 eligible.

13.11 If the information provided in the application is incomplete, the department must notify
13.12 the applicant in writing of that fact and must identify the items of information needed to
13.13 make a determination. After notifying an applicant that the person's application is incomplete,
13.14 the department shall hold the application open for up to 120 days while awaiting further
13.15 information from the applicant, and the applicant may submit that information within the
13.16 120-day period without filing an appeal and request for review.

13.17 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

13.18 Subd. 5. **Notices.** Notices and correspondence to an applicant must be directed to the
13.19 applicant by mail at the address listed in the application or electronically. Notices and
13.20 correspondence to the commissioner must be addressed to the commissioner's office ~~in St.~~
13.21 ~~Paul~~ or the designated department system.

13.22 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

13.23 Subd. 10. **Deadline for applications.** The application period for the bonus program
13.24 established in this section shall be ~~November 1, 1997, to June 30, 2001~~ July 1, 2022, to
13.25 June 30, 2024. The department may not receive or accept new applications after June 30,
13.26 ~~2001~~ 2024."

13.27 Amend the title accordingly