

2025 HF 1662 (Rehrauer) MAXIS Database Access: Streamlining Veteran Supports Bill

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

HF 1662 (Rehrauer) makes updates to Minnesota Statutes 13.461 and 197.065. Currently, these sections of Minnesota law provide MAXIS access to MDVA "for the purpose of verifying eligibility status of applicants for benefits under the State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP)." After standing up the Veterans Stable Housing Initiative and other programs under the Agency's Veterans Programs Division, it has become clear that the Veterans Programs staff supporting at-risk Veterans within the Veterans Stable Housing Initiative also require MAXIS access.

MAXIS is a computer system managed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families used by state and county workers to determine eligibility for public assistance and services. The ability to leverage the efforts of other Minnesota interagency organizations via MAXIS access streamlines the process to verify eligibility and complete entry of Veterans onto the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry.

This bill is solely a technical adjustment and will not lead to a change in provided services. No additional divisions within MDVA will require access at a later date. MDVA's access to MAXIS is read-only and does not affect the administration of benefits by DHS, DCYF, or county entities and all MDVA employees who attain access will adhere to the training and security requirements established by DCYF to receive and maintain access.

WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

Passage of this bill will ensure that Minnesota Veterans and their families receive benefits and services outside of those provided by MDVA in a more streamlined and efficient way.

These programs include Federal Food Support Program, General Assistance, Housing Support, Minnesota Supplemental Aid, Medical Assistance and more. At its core, this bill will reduce the time it takes to determine eligibility between federal and state benefits, which will get assistance to those needing it more quickly.

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

The expansion of MAXIS access to Veterans Programs' staff will allow MDVA to more efficiently connect homeless veterans to mainstream resources by ensuring they are screened for available benefits. This change will be an additional commonsense adjustment to Minnesota statutes that will likely go a long way toward helping Minnesota be the next state to declare and maintain "functional zero" for Veteran homelessness.

MINNESOTA VETERANS STATE BILL TRACKER

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



Veiw the online bill tracker at <u>mn.gov/mdva/news/legislative-updates/state-bill-tracker/</u>

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