

Subject Veterans and Military Affairs Omnibus Finance and Policy Bill

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Overview

This bill contains appropriations to the Departments of Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs. The bill also contains a variety of policy proposals related to the two agencies.

Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

This article contains appropriations to the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

1 Appropriations.

Provides general guidance on the appropriations in sections 2 and 3.

2 Military affairs.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$29,292,000 the first year and \$29,499,000 the second year to the Department of Military Affairs.

Subd. 2. Maintenance of training facilities. Appropriates \$9,951,000 the first year and \$10,064,000 the second year to maintain training facilities.

Subd. 3. General support. Appropriates \$5,127,000 the first year and \$5,321,000 the second year for general support, which includes funding for the Minnesota Cyber Coordination Cell (C3) and Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F).

Subd. 4. Enlistment incentives. Appropriates \$13,614,000 each year for enlistment incentives.

Subd. 5. Emergency services. Appropriates \$600,000 in the first year and \$500,000 in the second year for emergency services.

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

3 Veterans affairs.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$152,998,000 in the first year and \$133,552,000 in the second year to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subd. 2. Veterans programs and services. Appropriates \$63,826,000 the first year and \$31,601,000 the second year for the following veterans programs and services:

- Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)—\$1,275,000 each year;
- veterans service organizations—\$500,000 each year;
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)—\$9,180,000 the first year and \$2,030,000 the second year;
- state’s veterans cemeteries—\$4,282,000 each year;
- recently separated veterans program—\$402,000 the first year and \$327,000 the second year;
- veterans homelessness initiative—\$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the second year;
- LinkVet call center—\$500,000 each year;
- County Veterans Service Offices—\$1,100,000 each year;
- homeless veterans and SOAR program—\$1,400,000 each year; and
- veterans bonus program—\$22,000,000 the first year.

Subd. 3. Veterans health care. Appropriates \$87,964,000 the first year and \$100,768,000 the second year to veterans health care. Requires the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature on reserve amounts maintained in the veterans home special revenue account.

Article 2: Policy (Veterans Affairs)

This article contains changes to statutes that relate to veterans affairs.

Section Description – Article 2: Policy (Veterans Affairs)

1 Definitions.

Modifies the definition of “resident veteran” for purposes of the veteran bonus program.

2 Bonus amount.

Expands eligibility for the post-9/11 veteran bonus program.

Section Description – Article 2: Policy (Veterans Affairs)

- 3 Reapplication allowed.**
Permits veterans to re-apply for post-9/11 veteran bonus if their eligibility status was impacted by the changes made in sections 1 and 2.
- 4 Educational assistance.**
Increases the amount of educational assistance that veterans are eligible to receive.
- 5 Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.**
Increases the total educational assistance benefit that a veteran may receive.
- 6 Additional professional or educational benefits.**
Increases the total professional or educational benefit that a veteran can earn.
- 7 Veterans affairs; total appropriation.**
Reduces the total appropriation to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023.
- 8 Veterans homelessness initiative.**
Reduces the appropriation to the veterans homelessness initiative for fiscal year 2023.



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