

1.10 **ARTICLE 1**

1.11 **MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

1.12 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.13 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

1.14 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,

1.15 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

1.16 The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under

1.17 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.

1.18 "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"

1.19 is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

1.20 **APPROPRIATIONS**

1.21 **Available for the Year**

1.22 **Ending June 30**

1.23 **2024** **2025**

1.24 Sec. 2. **MILITARY AFFAIRS**

1.25 Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation** **\$ 63,492,000** **\$ 28,646,000**

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each

2.2 purpose are specified in the following

2.3 subdivisions. The base is \$27,156,000 in fiscal

2.4 year 2026 and \$27,166,000 in fiscal year 2027

2.5 and each year thereafter.

2.6 Subd. 2. **Maintenance of Training Facilities** **9,951,000** **10,064,000**

2.7 Subd. 3. **General Support** **39,247,000** **4,818,000**

2.8 The base is \$4,828,000 in fiscal year 2026 and

2.9 \$4,838,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year

2.10 thereafter.

2.11 **(a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).**

2.12 **\$555,000 the first year and \$562,000 the**

2.13 **second year are for administrative and payroll**

1.10 **ARTICLE 1**

1.11 **MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS**

1.12 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.13 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

1.14 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,

1.15 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

1.16 The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under

1.17 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.

1.18 "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"

1.19 is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

1.20 **APPROPRIATIONS**

1.21 **Available for the Year**

1.22 **Ending June 30**

1.23 **2024** **2025**

1.24 Sec. 2. **MILITARY AFFAIRS**

1.25 Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation** **\$ 56,135,000** **\$ 28,717,000**

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each

2.2 purpose are specified in the following

2.3 subdivisions. The base is \$27,017,000 in fiscal

2.4 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

2.5 Subd. 2. **Maintenance of Training Facilities** **9,951,000** **10,064,000**

2.6 Subd. 3. **General Support** **31,970,000** **4,539,000**

2.7 **(a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).**

2.8 **\$582,000 the first year and \$590,000 the**

2.9 **second year are for administrative and payroll**

2.14 costs to create and operate a Cyber  
 2.15 Coordination Cell in the Minnesota National  
 2.16 Guard. The base is \$569,000 in fiscal year  
 2.17 2026 and \$576,000 in fiscal year 2027 and  
 2.18 each year thereafter.

2.19 **(b) Army Combat Fitness Test Field House.**  
 2.20 \$17,600,000 the first year is for predesign,  
 2.21 design, construction, furnishing, and equipping  
 2.22 costs for an Army Combat Fitness Test Field  
 2.23 House.

2.24 **(c) Minnesota Military Museum at Camp**  
 2.25 **Ripley. \$17,000,000 the first year is for the**  
 2.26 design and construction of the Minnesota  
 2.27 Military Museum at Camp Ripley. This  
 2.28 appropriation is in addition to the  
 2.29 appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth  
 2.30 Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section  
 2.31 14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This  
 2.32 is a onetime appropriation and is available  
 2.33 until June 30, 2027.

3.1 **(d) Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F).**  
 3.2 \$304,000 the first year and \$307,000 the  
 3.3 second year are for administrative and payroll  
 3.4 costs to create and operate Holistic Health and  
 3.5 Fitness (H2F) initiatives across the Minnesota  
 3.6 Army National Guard. The base is \$310,000  
 3.7 in fiscal year 2026 and \$313,000 in fiscal year  
 3.8 2027 and each year thereafter.

3.9 **Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives** 13,614,000 13,614,000

3.10 The appropriations in this subdivision are  
 3.11 available until June 30, 2027.

3.12 If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is  
 3.13 insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available  
 3.14 in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered  
 3.15 balance does not cancel at the end of the first  
 3.16 year and is available for the second year.

2.10 costs to create and operate a Cyber  
 2.11 Coordination Cell in the Minnesota National  
 2.12 Guard.

2.13 **(b) \$17,600,000 the first year is for predesign,**  
 2.14 design, construction, furnishing and equipping  
 2.15 costs for an Army Combat Fitness Test Field  
 2.16 House.

2.17 **(c) Minnesota Military Museum at Camp**  
 2.18 **Ripley. \$10,000,000 the first year is for the**  
 2.19 design and construction of the Minnesota  
 2.20 military museum at Camp Ripley. This  
 2.21 appropriation is in addition to the  
 2.22 appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth  
 2.23 Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section  
 2.24 14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This  
 2.25 is a onetime appropriation and is available  
 2.26 until June 30, 2027.

2.27 **Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives** 13,614,000 13,614,000

2.28 The appropriations in this subdivision are  
 2.29 available until June 30, 2027. The base for this  
 2.30 appropriation is \$12,114,000 in fiscal year  
 2.31 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

2.32 If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is  
 2.33 insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available  
 2.34 in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered  
 3.1 balance does not cancel at the end of the first  
 3.2 year and is available for the second year.

3.17 Subd. 5. Emergency Services 650,000 150,000

3.18 **Sustain Domestic Operations**

3.19 **Communication Capabilities.** \$650,000 the

3.20 first year and \$150,000 the second year are

3.21 for ongoing replacement of communications

3.22 systems to support domestic operations when

3.23 ordered into state service by the governor.

3.24 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3.25 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 145,309,000 \$ 131,551,000

3.26 The amounts that may be spent for each

3.27 purpose are specified in the following

3.28 subdivisions. The base is \$123,194,000 in

3.29 fiscal year 2026 and \$124,276,000 in fiscal

3.30 year 2027 and each year thereafter.

3.31 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services 55,799,000 30,704,000

3.32 The amounts that may be spent for each

3.33 purpose are specified in the following

4.1 subdivisions. The base is \$30,207,000 in fiscal

4.2 year 2026 and \$30,241,000 in fiscal year 2027.

4.3 (a) State's Veterans Cemeteries. \$4,598,000

4.4 the first year and \$4,627,000 the second year

4.5 are for the operation of the state's veterans

4.6 cemeteries. The base is \$4,158,000 in fiscal

4.7 year 2026 and \$4,192,000 in fiscal year 2027.

4.8 (b) Veterans Service Organizations.

4.9 \$500,000 each year is for grants to the

4.10 following congressionally chartered veterans

4.11 service organizations as designated by the

4.12 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,

4.13 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the

4.14 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,

4.15 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and

4.16 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding

4.17 must be allocated in direct proportion to the

3.3 Subd. 5. Emergency Services 600,000 500,000

3.4 **Sustain Domestic Operations**

3.5 **Communication Capabilities.** For ongoing

3.6 replacement of communications systems to

3.7 support domestic operations when ordered

3.8 into state service by the governor. The base

3.9 for this appropriation is \$300,000 in fiscal year

3.10 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.11 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

3.12 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 149,638,000 \$ 133,702,000

3.13 The amounts that may be spent for each

3.14 purpose are specified in the following

3.15 subdivisions. The base is \$123,346,000 in

3.16 fiscal year 2026 and \$124,394,000 in fiscal

3.17 year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.18 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services 60,184,000 31,634,000

3.19 The amounts that may be spent for each

3.20 purpose are specified in the following

3.21 subdivisions. The base is \$30,109,000 in fiscal

3.22 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.23 (a) State's Veterans Cemeteries. \$4,282,000

3.24 each year is for the operation of the state's

3.25 veterans cemeteries. The base for this

3.26 appropriation is \$3,782,000 in fiscal year 2026

3.27 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3.28 (b) Veterans Service Organizations.

3.29 \$500,000 each year is for grants to the

3.30 following congressionally chartered veterans

3.31 service organizations as designated by the

3.32 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,

3.33 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the

4.1 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,

4.2 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and

4.3 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding

4.4 must be allocated in direct proportion to the

4.18 funding currently being provided by the  
 4.19 commissioner to these organizations.

4.20 (c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for  
 4.21 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
 4.22 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 4.23 197.231.

4.24 (d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is  
 4.25 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
 4.26 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
 4.27 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
 4.28 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 4.29 197.791.

4.30 (e) Gold Star Program. \$100,000 each year  
 4.31 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
 4.32 surviving family members of deceased  
 4.33 veterans.

5.1 (f) County Veterans Service Office.  
 5.2 \$1,550,000 each year is for funding the  
 5.3 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
 5.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

5.5 (g) Camp Bliss. \$150,000 each year is for a  
 5.6 grant to Camp Bliss as provided for in section  
 5.7 6. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year  
 5.8 2026 and each year thereafter is \$75,000.

5.9 (h) Veterans on the Lake. \$50,000 each year  
 5.10 is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for  
 5.11 expenses related to retreats for Minnesota

4.5 funding currently being provided by the  
 4.6 commissioner to these organizations.

4.7 (c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for  
 4.8 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
 4.9 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 4.10 197.231.

4.11 (d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is  
 4.12 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
 4.13 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
 4.14 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
 4.15 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 4.16 197.791.

4.17 (e) Gold Star Program. \$100,000 each year  
 4.18 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
 4.19 surviving family members of deceased  
 4.20 veterans.

4.21 (f) County Veterans Service Office.  
 4.22 \$1,550,000 each year is for funding the  
 4.23 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
 4.24 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

4.25 (g) Camp Bliss. \$150,000 each year is for a  
 4.26 grant to Camp Bliss for expenses related to  
 4.27 retreats for veterans, including therapy,  
 4.28 transportation, and activities customized for  
 4.29 veterans.

4.30 (h) Grants for ADA Compliance. \$2,000,000  
 4.31 the first year is for the commissioner to make  
 4.32 grants to congressionally chartered veterans  
 4.33 service organizations for the purpose of  
 4.34 making veterans service organization buildings  
 5.1 comply with the Americans with Disabilities  
 5.2 Act. The commissioner must not award a  
 5.3 grantee more than \$100,000 under this  
 5.4 appropriation. A grantee must use funds  
 5.5 received under this appropriation for a  
 5.6 building owned by the grantee.

5.7 (i) Veterans on the Lake. \$50,000 each year  
 5.8 is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for  
 5.9 expenses related to retreats for veterans,

5.12 veterans, including therapy, transportation,  
 5.13 and activities customized for veterans. These  
 5.14 are onetime appropriations.

5.15 **(i) Veteran Resilience Project. \$400,000 each**  
 5.16 year is for a grant to the veteran resilience  
 5.17 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye  
 5.18 movement desensitization and reprocessing  
 5.19 therapy available to veterans, veterans'  
 5.20 spouses, current military service members,  
 5.21 and current military service members' spouses  
 5.22 who are suffering from posttraumatic stress  
 5.23 disorder and trauma. To be eligible for  
 5.24 services, a prospective client must be a  
 5.25 resident of the state or assigned to a permanent  
 5.26 duty station in the state pursuant to their  
 5.27 military service. The base for this  
 5.28 appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year  
 5.29 thereafter is \$200,000.

5.30 The veteran resilience project must report to  
 5.31 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
 5.32 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
 5.33 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
 5.34 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
 5.35 15 of each year on the program. The report  
 6.1 must include an overview of the program's  
 6.2 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
 6.3 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
 6.4 service members served by the program, and  
 6.5 a list and explanation of the services provided  
 6.6 to program participants.

6.7 **(j) Minnesota Military and Veterans**  
 6.8 **Museum. \$300,000 each year is for a grant to**  
 6.9 **the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum**  
 6.10 **for museum staff to provide direct services to**  
 6.11 **veterans and their families.**

6.12 **(k) Every Third Saturday. \$100,000 each**  
 6.13 **year is for a grant to Every Third Saturday to**  
 6.14 **provide veterans with emergency assistance**  
 6.15 **and internships. Every Third Saturday must**  
 6.16 **report to the commissioner of veterans affairs**  
 6.17 **and the chairs and ranking minority members**

5.10 including therapy, transportation, and activities  
 5.11 customized for veterans. These are onetime  
 5.12 appropriations.

5.13 **(j) Veteran Resilience Project. \$300,000 each**  
 5.14 **year is for a grant to the veteran resilience**  
 5.15 **project. Grant funds must be used to make eye**  
 5.16 **movement desensitization and reprocessing**  
 5.17 **therapy available to veterans, veterans'**  
 5.18 **spouses, current military service members,**  
 5.19 **and current military service members' spouses**  
 5.20 **who are suffering from posttraumatic stress**  
 5.21 **disorder and trauma.**

5.22 The veteran resilience project must report to  
 5.23 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
 5.24 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
 5.25 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
 5.26 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
 5.27 15 of each year on the program. The report  
 5.28 must include an overview of the program's  
 5.29 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
 5.30 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
 5.31 service members served by the program, and  
 5.32 a list and explanation of the services provided  
 5.33 to program participants.

6.18 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction  
 6.19 over veterans affairs policy and finance no  
 6.20 later than September 1, 2024, and by  
 6.21 September 1 of each subsequent year. Each  
 6.22 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed  
 6.23 explanation of how the grant money was used  
 6.24 and the number of veterans served by the  
 6.25 program. These are onetime appropriations.

6.26 (l) CORE Program. \$1,225,000 each year is  
 6.27 for the Counseling and Case Management  
 6.28 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
 6.29 program.

6.30 (m) LinkVet Call Center. \$369,000 each year  
 6.31 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call  
 6.32 Center.

6.33 (n) Recently Separated Veterans Program.  
 6.34 \$325,000 each year is for the operation of the  
 7.1 recently separated veterans program. The  
 7.2 commissioner of veterans affairs may use  
 7.3 Department of Defense and other veteran data  
 7.4 that were provided with an appropriate  
 7.5 disclosure to assist with connecting veterans  
 7.6 to resources and new programming. The  
 7.7 commissioner may use money for personnel,  
 7.8 research, marketing, technology solutions, and  
 7.9 professional or technical contracts. The base  
 7.10 for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and  
 7.11 each year thereafter is \$300,000.

7.12 (o) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.  
 7.13 \$675,000 each year is to operate the homeless  
 7.14 veteran registry and homeless programs and  
 7.15 to assist veterans, former service members,  
 7.16 and their dependents with obtaining federal  
 7.17 benefits through the Social Security  
 7.18 Administration. The commissioner of veterans  
 7.19 affairs may use money for personnel, training,  
 7.20 research, marketing, and professional or  
 7.21 technical contracts. The base for this

5.34 (k) CORE Program. \$1,475,000 each year  
 5.35 is for the Counseling and Case Management  
 6.1 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
 6.2 program. These amounts are available until  
 6.3 June 30, 2027. The base for this appropriation  
 6.4 is \$975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal  
 6.5 year thereafter.

6.6 (l) LinkVet Call Center. \$499,000 each year  
 6.7 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call  
 6.8 Center.

6.9 (m) Recently Separated Veterans Program.  
 6.10 \$350,000 the first year and \$300,000 the  
 6.11 second year are for operation of the recently  
 6.12 separated veterans program. The commissioner  
 6.13 of veterans affairs may use Department of  
 6.14 Defense and other veteran data that were  
 6.15 provided with an appropriate disclosure to  
 6.16 assist with connecting veterans to resources  
 6.17 and new programming. The commissioner  
 6.18 may use money for personnel, research,  
 6.19 marketing, technology solutions, and  
 6.20 professional or technical contracts.

6.21 (n) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.  
 6.22 \$1,450,000 each year is to operate the  
 6.23 homeless veteran registry and homeless  
 6.24 programs and to assist veterans, former service  
 6.25 members, and their dependents with obtaining  
 6.26 federal benefits through the Social Security  
 6.27 Administration. The commissioner of veterans  
 6.28 affairs may use money for personnel, training,  
 6.29 research, marketing, and professional or  
 6.30 technical contracts. These amounts are

7.22 appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year  
7.23 thereafter is \$1,097,000.

7.24 (p) Minnesota Assistance Council for  
7.25 Veterans. \$7,090,000 the first year and  
7.26 \$970,000 the second year are for grants to the  
7.27 Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans  
7.28 to provide assistance throughout Minnesota  
7.29 to veterans and their families who are  
7.30 homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
7.31 including assistance with:

7.32 (1) supportive services to maintain housing;  
7.33 (2) employment;  
7.34 (3) legal issues;

8.1 (4) housing and housing-related costs;  
8.2 (5) transportation;

8.3 (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent  
8.4 supportive housing; and

8.5 (7) property management of permanent  
8.6 supportive housing.

8.7 Of these amounts, \$5,680,000 the first year is  
8.8 for the establishment of permanent supportive  
8.9 housing options for homeless veterans and  
8.10 former service members. This is a onetime  
8.11 appropriation and is available until June 30,  
8.12 2026. \$440,000 the first year is for the direct  
8.13 veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime  
8.14 appropriation. Any unencumbered balance  
8.15 remaining in this subdivision in the first year  
8.16 for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council  
8.17 for Veterans does not cancel and is available  
8.18 for the second year. The base is \$970,000 in  
8.19 fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter.  
8.20 Assistance authorized under this paragraph  
8.21 must be provided only to a veteran who has  
8.22 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the  
8.23 veteran's application for assistance and  
8.24 according to other guidelines established by

6.31 available until June 30, 2027. The base for this  
6.32 appropriation is \$975,000 in fiscal year 2026  
6.33 and each fiscal year thereafter.

6.34 (o) Minnesota Assistance Council for  
6.35 Veterans. \$9,325,000 the first year and  
7.1 \$1,075,000 the second year are for grants to  
7.2 the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans  
7.3 to provide assistance throughout Minnesota  
7.4 to veterans and their families who are  
7.5 homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
7.6 including assistance with:

7.7 (1) supportive services to maintain housing;  
7.8 (2) employment;  
7.9 (3) legal issues;

7.10 (4) housing and housing-related costs;  
7.11 (5) transportation;

7.12 (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent  
7.13 supportive housing; and

7.14 (7) property management of permanent  
7.15 supportive housing.

7.16 Of these amounts, \$8,000,000 the first year is  
7.17 for the establishment of permanent supportive  
7.18 housing options for homeless veterans and  
7.19 former service members. This is a onetime  
7.20 appropriation and is available until June 30,  
7.21 2026. \$250,000 the first year is for the direct  
7.22 veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime  
7.23 appropriation. Any unencumbered balance  
7.24 remaining in this subdivision in the first year  
7.25 for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council  
7.26 for Veterans does not cancel and is available  
7.27 for the second year. The base is \$1,075,000  
7.28 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year  
7.29 thereafter. Assistance authorized under this  
7.30 paragraph must be provided only to a veteran  
7.31 who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior  
7.32 to the veteran's application for assistance and  
7.33 according to other guidelines established by

8.25 the commissioner. To avoid duplication of  
8.26 services, the commissioner must ensure that  
8.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
8.28 available programs for veterans.

8.29 **(q) Veterans Bonus Program. \$15,000,000**  
8.30 the first year is for service bonuses to  
8.31 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families  
8.32 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This  
8.33 is a onetime appropriation and is available  
8.34 until June 30, 2024.

9.1 **(r) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
9.2 \$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the  
9.3 second year are for an initiative to prevent and  
9.4 end veteran homelessness.

9.5 **(s) Veterans Campground Wastewater**  
9.6 **System Upgrades.**  
9.7 \$754,000 the first year is for one or more  
9.8 grants to the Veterans Campground on Big  
9.9 Marine Lake, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
9.10 organization, to design, engineer, permit, and  
9.11 construct wastewater systems on campground

8.1 the commissioner. To avoid duplication of  
8.2 services, the commissioner must ensure that  
8.3 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
8.4 available programs for veterans.

8.5 **(p) Veterans Bonus Program. \$15,000,000**  
8.6 the first year is for service bonuses to  
8.7 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families  
8.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This  
8.9 is a onetime appropriation and is available  
8.10 until June 30, 2024.

8.11 **(q) Metro Meals on Wheels. \$540,000 each**  
8.12 year is for a grant to Metro Meals on Wheels  
8.13 to provide: (1) home-delivered meals to  
8.14 veterans; and (2) technical, enrollment,  
8.15 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance  
8.16 to member programs. Metro Meals on Wheels  
8.17 must report to the commissioner of veterans  
8.18 affairs and the chairs and ranking minority  
8.19 members of the legislative committees with  
8.20 jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and  
8.21 finance by September 1 each year with a  
8.22 detailed explanation of how the grant money  
8.23 was used and the number of veterans and  
8.24 service members served by the program.

8.29 **(s) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
8.30 \$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the  
8.31 second year are for an initiative to prevent and  
8.32 end veteran homelessness.

8.25 **(r) Vietnam War Anniversary. \$250,000 the**  
8.26 first year is to prepare and host a  
8.27 commemoration program for the fiftieth  
8.28 anniversary of the Vietnam War.



9.12 property to increase the capacity of wastewater  
9.13 systems. This is a onetime appropriation.

9.14 **Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care** 89,510,000 100,847,000

9.15 (a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal  
9.16 year 2026 is \$92,987,000 and \$94,035,000 in  
9.17 fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

9.18 (b) \$88,610,000 the first year and \$99,847,000  
9.19 the second year may be transferred to a  
9.20 veterans homes special revenue account in the  
9.21 special revenue fund in the same manner as  
9.22 other receipts are deposited according to  
9.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 198.34, and are  
9.24 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans  
9.25 affairs for the operation of veterans homes  
9.26 facilities and programs. The base for this  
9.27 transfer is \$92,437,000 in fiscal year 2026 and  
9.28 \$93,485,000 in fiscal year 2027.

9.29 (c) The department shall seek opportunities to  
9.30 maximize federal reimbursements of  
9.31 Medicare-eligible expenses and provide annual  
9.32 reports to the commissioner of management  
9.33 and budget on the federal Medicare  
9.34 reimbursements that are received. Contingent  
10.1 upon future federal Medicare receipts,  
10.2 reductions to the veterans homes' general fund  
10.3 appropriation may be made.

10.4 (d) \$350,000 the first year and \$450,000 the  
10.5 second year are for the department to staff  
10.6 Veteran Community Health Navigators in  
10.7 community-based hospitals. These are onetime  
10.8 appropriations.

8.33 **Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care** 89,454,000 102,068,000

9.1 (a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal  
9.2 year 2026 is \$93,237,000 and \$94,285,000 in  
9.3 fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

9.4 (b) \$87,964,000 the first year and  
9.5 \$100,768,000 the second year may be  
9.6 transferred to a veterans homes special  
9.7 revenue account in the special revenue fund  
9.8 in the same manner as other receipts are  
9.9 deposited according to Minnesota Statutes,  
9.10 section 198.34, and are appropriated to the  
9.11 commissioner of veterans affairs for the  
9.12 operation of veterans homes facilities and  
9.13 programs. The base for this transfer is  
9.14 \$92,437,000 in fiscal year 2026 and  
9.15 \$93,485,000 in fiscal year 2027.

9.16 (c) The department shall seek opportunities to  
9.17 maximize federal reimbursements of  
9.18 Medicare-eligible expenses and provide annual  
9.19 reports to the commissioner of management  
9.20 and budget on the federal Medicare  
9.21 reimbursements that are received. Contingent  
9.22 upon future federal Medicare receipts,  
9.23 reductions to the veterans homes' general fund  
9.24 appropriation may be made.

9.25 (d) \$750,000 each year are for the department  
9.26 to staff Veteran Community Health Navigators  
9.27 in community-based hospitals. These amounts  
9.28 are available until June 30, 2027. The base for  
9.29 this appropriation is \$250,000 in fiscal year  
9.30 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

9.31 (e) \$190,000 the first year is for the working  
9.32 group established under article 2, section 8.

10.9 Sec. 4. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,  
 10.10 is amended to read:

10.11 Subd. 2. **Veterans Programs and Services** 27,073,000 22,153,000

10.12 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is  
 10.13 for the Counseling and Case Management  
 10.14 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
 10.15 program.

10.16 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**  
 10.17 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the  
 10.18 following congressionally chartered veterans  
 10.19 service organizations as designated by the  
 10.20 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,  
 10.21 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the  
 10.22 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
 10.23 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and  
 10.24 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding  
 10.25 must be allocated in direct proportion to the  
 10.26 funding currently being provided by the  
 10.27 commissioner to these organizations.

10.28 (c) **Minnesota Assistance Council for**  
 10.29 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant  
 10.30 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for  
 10.31 Veterans to provide assistance throughout  
 10.32 Minnesota to veterans and their families who  
 10.33 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
 10.34 including assistance with the following:

11.1 (1) utilities;

11.2 (2) employment; and

11.3 (3) legal issues.

11.4 The assistance authorized under this paragraph  
 11.5 must be made only to veterans who have  
 11.6 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to  
 11.7 application for assistance and according to  
 11.8 other guidelines established by the  
 11.9 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication  
 11.10 of services, the commissioner must ensure that  
 11.11 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
 11.12 available programs for veterans.

16.22 Sec. 7. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,  
 16.23 is amended to read:

16.24 Subd. 2. **Veterans Programs and Services** 27,073,000 22,153,000

16.25 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is  
 16.26 for the Counseling and Case Management  
 16.27 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)  
 16.28 program.

16.29 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**  
 16.30 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the  
 16.31 following congressionally chartered veterans  
 17.1 service organizations as designated by the  
 17.2 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,  
 17.3 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the  
 17.4 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
 17.5 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and  
 17.6 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding  
 17.7 must be allocated in direct proportion to the  
 17.8 funding currently being provided by the  
 17.9 commissioner to these organizations.

17.10 (c) **Minnesota Assistance Council for**  
 17.11 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant  
 17.12 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for  
 17.13 Veterans to provide assistance throughout  
 17.14 Minnesota to veterans and their families who  
 17.15 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,  
 17.16 including assistance with the following:

17.17 (1) utilities;

17.18 (2) employment; and

17.19 (3) legal issues.

17.20 The assistance authorized under this paragraph  
 17.21 must be made only to veterans who have  
 17.22 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to  
 17.23 application for assistance and according to  
 17.24 other guidelines established by the  
 17.25 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication  
 17.26 of services, the commissioner must ensure that  
 17.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other  
 17.28 available programs for veterans.

11.13 (d) **State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000  
 11.14 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year  
 11.15 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these  
 11.16 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to  
 11.17 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery  
 11.18 in Redwood Falls.

11.19 (e) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for  
 11.20 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
 11.21 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 11.22 197.231.

11.23 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is  
 11.24 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
 11.25 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
 11.26 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
 11.27 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 11.28 197.791.

11.29 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year  
 11.30 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
 11.31 surviving family members of deceased  
 11.32 veterans.

12.1 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**  
 12.2 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the  
 12.3 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
 12.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

12.5 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
 12.6 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to  
 12.7 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The  
 12.8 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide  
 12.9 housing vouchers and other services to  
 12.10 alleviate homelessness among veterans and  
 12.11 former service members in Minnesota. The  
 12.12 commissioner may contract for program  
 12.13 administration and may establish a vacancy  
 12.14 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation  
 12.15 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is  
 12.16 \$1,311,000.

12.17 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a  
 12.18 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for  
 12.19 expenses related to retreats for veterans at  
 12.20 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including

17.29 (d) **State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000  
 17.30 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year  
 17.31 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these  
 17.32 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to  
 17.33 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery  
 17.34 in Redwood Falls.

18.1 (e) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for  
 18.2 compensation for honor guards at the funerals  
 18.3 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 18.4 197.231.

18.5 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is  
 18.6 for the costs of administering the Minnesota  
 18.7 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,  
 18.8 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship  
 18.9 program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 18.10 197.791.

18.11 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year  
 18.12 is for administering the Gold Star Program for  
 18.13 surviving family members of deceased  
 18.14 veterans.

18.15 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**  
 18.16 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the  
 18.17 County Veterans Service Office grant program  
 18.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

18.19 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**  
 18.20 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to  
 18.21 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The  
 18.22 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide  
 18.23 housing vouchers and other services to  
 18.24 alleviate homelessness among veterans and  
 18.25 former service members in Minnesota. The  
 18.26 commissioner may contract for program  
 18.27 administration and may establish a vacancy  
 18.28 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation  
 18.29 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is  
 18.30 \$1,311,000.

18.31 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a  
 18.32 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for  
 18.33 expenses related to retreats for veterans at  
 18.34 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including

12.21 therapy, transportation, and activities  
 12.22 customized for veterans.

12.23 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the  
 12.24 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake  
 12.25 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,  
 12.26 including therapy, transportation, and activities  
 12.27 customized for veterans.

12.28 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000  
 12.29 each year is for a grant to the veterans  
 12.30 resilience project. Grant funds must be used  
 12.31 to make eye movement desensitization and  
 12.32 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and~~  
 12.33 veterans' spouses, current military service  
 12.34 members, and current military service  
 12.35 members' spouses who are suffering from  
 13.1 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The  
 13.2 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024  
 13.3 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

13.4 The veterans resilience project must report to  
 13.5 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
 13.6 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
 13.7 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
 13.8 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
 13.9 15 of each year on the program. The report  
 13.10 must include an overview of the program's  
 13.11 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
 13.12 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
 13.13 service members served by the program, and  
 13.14 a list and explanation of the services provided  
 13.15 to program participants.

13.16 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year  
 13.17 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and  
 13.18 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The  
 13.19 task force must collect, memorialize, and  
 13.20 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the  
 13.21 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their  
 13.22 dependents. The task force must host a  
 13.23 remembrance program in September 2021.  
 13.24 This is a onetime appropriation.

13.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

19.1 therapy, transportation, and activities  
 19.2 customized for veterans.

19.3 **(k) Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the  
 19.4 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake  
 19.5 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,  
 19.6 including therapy, transportation, and activities  
 19.7 customized for veterans.

19.8 **(l) Veterans Resilience Project.** \$400,000  
 19.9 each year is for a grant to the veterans  
 19.10 resilience project. Grant funds must be used  
 19.11 to make eye movement desensitization and  
 19.12 reprocessing therapy available to veterans ~~and~~  
 19.13 veterans' spouses, current military service  
 19.14 members, and current military service  
 19.15 members' spouses who are suffering from  
 19.16 posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The  
 19.17 base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024  
 19.18 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

19.19 The veterans resilience project must report to  
 19.20 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the  
 19.21 chairs and ranking minority members of the  
 19.22 legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
 19.23 veterans affairs policy and finance by January  
 19.24 15 of each year on the program. The report  
 19.25 must include an overview of the program's  
 19.26 budget, a detailed explanation of program  
 19.27 expenditures, the number of veterans and  
 19.28 service members served by the program, and  
 19.29 a list and explanation of the services provided  
 19.30 to program participants.

19.31 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year  
 19.32 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and  
 19.33 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The  
 19.34 task force must collect, memorialize, and  
 19.35 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the  
 20.1 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their  
 20.2 dependents. The task force must host a  
 20.3 remembrance program in September 2021.  
 20.4 This is a onetime appropriation.

20.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

13.26 Sec. 5. **CANCELLATION; FISCAL YEAR 2023.**

13.27 (a) \$3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2021, First  
 13.28 Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), is canceled  
 13.29 to the general fund on June 30, 2023.

13.30 (b) \$754,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2022, chapter  
 13.31 54, article 1, section 3, subdivision 2, paragraph (k), is canceled to the general fund on June  
 13.32 30, 2023.

13.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

14.1 Sec. 6. **CAMP BLISS GRANT PROGRAM.**

14.2 Subdivision 1. **Grant program; eligibility; reimbursement requirements.** (a) The  
 14.3 commissioner of veterans affairs shall issue a grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., for  
 14.4 expenses related to retreats for eligible veterans and their family members at Camp Bliss  
 14.5 in the city of Walker.

14.6 (b) The grant recipient may use grant money to provide therapy, transportation, and  
 14.7 activities customized for eligible veterans and their family members.

14.8 (c) The commissioner must reimburse the grant recipient at least \$850 for each eligible  
 14.9 veteran or family member who the commissioner verifies attended the camp and received  
 14.10 services from the grant recipient. The commissioner shall disburse money to the grant  
 14.11 recipient for up to two visits per year to the camp for each eligible veteran or family member.

14.12 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
 14.13 meanings given.

14.14 (b) "Eligible veteran" means a Minnesota resident who is either:

14.15 (1) a former armed forces service member who has a DD-214 or other official document  
 14.16 from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the honorable service  
 14.17 of the veteran; or

14.18 (2) a current armed forces member, whether serving in the active or reserve component.

14.19 (c) "Family member" means an eligible veteran's spouse, domestic partner, and children.

14.20 Sec. 7. **FINANCIAL REVIEW OF NONPROFIT GRANT RECIPIENTS REQUIRED.**

14.21 Subdivision 1. **Financial review required.** (a) Before awarding a competitive,  
 14.22 legislatively named, single-source, or sole-source grant to a nonprofit organization under  
 14.23 this act, the grantor must require the applicant to submit financial information sufficient for  
 14.24 the grantor to document and assess the applicant's current financial standing and management.  
 14.25 Items of significant concern must be addressed with the applicant and resolved to the  
 14.26 satisfaction of the grantor before a grant is awarded. The grantor must document the material  
 14.27 requested and reviewed; whether the applicant had a significant operating deficit, a deficit

10.1 Sec. 4. **CANCELLATION; FISCAL YEAR 2023.**

10.2 \$3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2021, First  
 10.3 Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), is canceled  
 10.4 to the general fund by June 30, 2023.

10.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

14.28 in unrestricted net assets, or insufficient internal controls; whether and how the applicant  
14.29 resolved the grantor's concerns; and the grantor's final decision. This documentation must  
14.30 be maintained in the grantor's files.

14.31 (b) At a minimum, the grantor must require each applicant to provide the following  
14.32 information:

15.1 (1) the applicant's most recent Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N filed with the  
15.2 Internal Revenue Service. If the applicant has not been in existence long enough or is not  
15.3 required to file Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N, the applicant must demonstrate  
15.4 to the grantor that the applicant is exempt and must instead submit documentation of internal  
15.5 controls and the applicant's most recent financial statement prepared in accordance with  
15.6 generally accepted accounting principles and approved by the applicant's board of directors  
15.7 or trustees or, if there is no such board, by the applicant's managing group;

15.8 (2) evidence of registration and good standing with the secretary of state under Minnesota  
15.9 Statutes, chapter 317A, or other applicable law;

15.10 (3) unless exempt under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.515, evidence of registration  
15.11 and good standing with the attorney general under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 309; and

15.12 (4) if required under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.53, subdivision 3, the applicant's  
15.13 most recent audited financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted  
15.14 accounting principles.

15.15 Subd. 2. **Authority to postpone or forgo.** Notwithstanding any contrary provision in  
15.16 this act, a grantor that identifies an area of significant concern regarding the financial standing  
15.17 or management of a legislatively named applicant may postpone or forgo awarding the  
15.18 grant.

15.19 Subd. 3. **Authority to award subject to additional assistance and oversight.** A grantor  
15.20 that identifies an area of significant concern regarding an applicant's financial standing or  
15.21 management may award a grant to the applicant if the grantor provides or the grantee  
15.22 otherwise obtains additional technical assistance, as needed, and the grantor imposes  
15.23 additional requirements in the grant agreement. Additional requirements may include but  
15.24 are not limited to enhanced monitoring, additional reporting, or other reasonable requirements  
15.25 imposed by the grantor to protect the interests of the state.

15.26 Subd. 4. **Relation to other law and policy.** The requirements in this section are in  
15.27 addition to any other requirements imposed by law; the commissioner of administration  
15.28 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.97 and 16B.98; or agency policy.

16.1

ARTICLE 2

16.2

VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES

16.3

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

16.4

Subd. 2a. **Uses; veterans.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account may be used for:

16.6

(1) grants to veterans service organizations;

16.7

(2) outreach to underserved veterans;

16.8

(3) providing services and programs for veterans and their families;

16.9

(4) transfers to the vehicle services account for Gold Star license plates under section

16.10

168.1253;

16.11

(5) grants of up to \$100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of

16.12

veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their families;

16.13

families;

16.14

(6) grants to an eligible foundation; and

16.15

(7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the

16.16

commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

16.17

to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

16.18

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "eligible foundation" includes any organization

16.19

that:

16.20

(1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

16.21

(2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of

16.22

incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

16.23

to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

16.24

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

16.25

Subd. 9. **Burial fees prohibited.** ~~(a) The commissioner of veterans affairs shall establish a fee schedule, which may be adjusted from time to time, for the interment of eligible spouses and dependent children. The fees shall cover as nearly as practicable the actual costs of interment, excluding the value of the plot.~~

16.26

~~a fee schedule, which may be adjusted from time to time, for the interment of eligible spouses and dependent children. The fees shall cover as nearly as practicable the actual costs of~~

16.27

~~interment, excluding the value of the plot.~~

16.28

~~interment, excluding the value of the plot.~~

17.1

~~(b) Upon application, the commissioner may waive or reduce the burial fee for an indigent eligible person. The commissioner shall develop a policy, eligibility standards, and~~

17.2

~~application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.~~

17.3

~~application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.~~

10.6

ARTICLE 2

10.7

VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES

17.4 ~~(e) No plot or interment fees may be charged for the burial of service members who die~~  
 17.5 ~~on active duty or eligible veterans, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 101,~~  
 17.6 ~~paragraph (2) eligible persons under subdivision 8.~~

17.7 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

17.10 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal  
 17.11 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal  
 17.12 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this  
 17.13 section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17.23 (5) the veteran's estate.

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

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

17.26 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from September 11, 2001, to  
 17.27 August 30, 2021.

17.28 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor  
 17.29 or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or institution in which  
 17.30 the incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized to accept money for the benefit  
 17.31 of the minor or incapacitated veteran, the person determined by the commissioner to be the  
 18.1 person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated  
 18.2 beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who  
 18.3 has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or  
 18.4 veteran.

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

10.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.24 (5) the veteran's estate.

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

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

10.27 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from September 11, 2001, to  
 10.28 August 30, 2021.

10.29 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor  
 10.30 or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or institution in which  
 11.1 the incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized to accept money for the benefit  
 11.2 of the minor or incapacitated veteran, the person determined by the commissioner to be the  
 11.3 person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated  
 11.4 beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who  
 11.5 has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or  
 11.6 veteran.

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



18.7 (1) an honorable discharge;

18.8 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

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

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

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

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

18.19 (1) has been separated or discharged from the United States armed forces, ~~and whose~~  
18.20 ~~home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the United States armed forces, as~~  
18.21 ~~indicated on the person's form DD-214 or other documents the commissioner may authorize,~~  
18.22 ~~is the state of Minnesota and who resides in Minnesota at the time of application with the~~  
18.23 intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant may verify  
18.24 a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license; a state identification card; a  
18.25 voter registration card; a rent receipt; a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or  
18.26 homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address; or other form of  
18.27 verification approved by the commissioner; or

18.28 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an  
18.29 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United  
18.30 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) has  
18.31 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record in the veteran's official military personnel  
18.32 file.

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

19.3 (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447 and does not include a member  
19.4 of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces ordered  
19.5 to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes a person who is providing  
19.6 honorable service on active duty in the United States armed forces and has not been separated  
19.7 or discharged.

19.8 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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

11.9 (1) an honorable discharge;

11.10 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.5 (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447 and does not include a member  
12.6 of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces ordered  
12.7 to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes a person who is providing  
12.8 honorable service on active duty in the United States armed forces and has not been separated  
12.9 or discharged.

12.10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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

19.12 (1) \$600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
 19.13 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
 19.14 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

19.15 (2) \$1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War  
 19.16 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign Medal,  
 19.17 or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

19.18 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
 19.19 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
 19.20 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus,  
 19.21 and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or  
 19.22 condition.

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

19.25 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
 19.26 read:

19.27 Subd. 11. Reapplication allowed. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an eligible  
 19.28 veteran who previously applied for a bonus under this section may reapply if the veteran  
 19.29 either was denied a bonus or is entitled to receive a larger bonus than was originally awarded  
 19.30 based on the amendments to this section contained in this act.

19.31 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

20.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

20.2 Subd. 5. **Educational assistance.** (a) On approval by the commissioner of eligibility  
 20.3 for the program, the applicant shall be awarded, on a funds-available basis, the educational  
 20.4 assistance under the program for use at any time according to program rules at any eligible  
 20.5 institution.

20.6 (b) The amount of educational assistance in any semester or term for an eligible person  
 20.7 must be determined by subtracting from the eligible person's cost of attendance the amount  
 20.8 the person received or was eligible to receive in that semester or term from:

20.9 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

20.10 (2) the state grant program under section 136A.121; and

20.11 (3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the  
 20.12 Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational  
 20.13 rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as  
 20.14 a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans  
 20.15 Affairs.

12.14 (1) \$600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
 12.15 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
 12.16 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

12.17 (2) \$1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War  
 12.18 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign Medal,  
 12.19 or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

12.20 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global  
 12.21 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, ~~or~~ Afghanistan Campaign  
 12.22 Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus,  
 12.23 and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or  
 12.24 condition.

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

12.27 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
 12.28 read:

12.29 Subd. 11. Reapplication allowed. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an eligible  
 12.30 veteran who previously applied for a bonus under this section may reapply if the veteran  
 12.31 either was denied a bonus or is entitled to receive a larger bonus than was originally awarded  
 12.32 based on the amendments to this section contained in this act.

13.1 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

13.2 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

13.3 Subd. 5. **Educational assistance.** (a) On approval by the commissioner of eligibility  
 13.4 for the program, the applicant shall be awarded, on a funds-available basis, the educational  
 13.5 assistance under the program for use at any time according to program rules at any eligible  
 13.6 institution.

13.7 (b) The amount of educational assistance in any semester or term for an eligible person  
 13.8 must be determined by subtracting from the eligible person's cost of attendance the amount  
 13.9 the person received or was eligible to receive in that semester or term from:

13.10 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

13.11 (2) the state grant program under section 136A.121; and

13.12 (3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the  
 13.13 Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational  
 13.14 rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as  
 13.15 a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans  
 13.16 Affairs.

20.16 (c) The amount of educational assistance for any eligible person who is a ~~full-time~~  
20.17 student must not exceed the following:

20.18 (1) ~~\$3,000~~ \$5,000 per state fiscal year; and

20.19 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

20.20 ~~(d) For a part-time student, the amount of educational assistance must not exceed \$500~~  
20.21 ~~per semester or term of enrollment. For the purpose of this paragraph, a part-time~~  
20.22 ~~undergraduate student is a student taking fewer than 12 credits or the equivalent for a~~  
20.23 ~~semester or term of enrollment and a part-time graduate student is a student considered part~~  
20.24 ~~time by the eligible institution the graduate student is attending. The minimum award for~~  
20.25 ~~undergraduate and graduate students is \$50 per term.~~

20.26 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

20.27 Subd. 6. **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation  
20.28 with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry,  
20.29 shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer  
20.30 a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as  
20.31 provided in this subdivision.

21.1 (b) An "eligible employer" means an employer operating a qualifying apprenticeship or  
21.2 on-the-job training program that has been approved by the commissioner.

21.3 (c) A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this  
21.4 subdivision if the person is:

21.5 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
21.6 States armed forces at any time;

21.7 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
21.8 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
21.9 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
21.10 11, 2001;

21.11 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
21.12 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible  
21.13 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
21.14 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

21.15 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
21.16 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
21.17 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
21.18 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
21.19 chapter 35, as amended.

13.17 (c) The amount of educational assistance for any eligible person who is a ~~full-time~~  
13.18 student must not exceed the following:

13.19 (1) ~~\$3,000~~ \$5,000 per state fiscal year; and

13.20 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

13.21 ~~(d) For a part-time student, the amount of educational assistance must not exceed \$500~~  
13.22 ~~per semester or term of enrollment. For the purpose of this paragraph, a part-time~~  
13.23 ~~undergraduate student is a student taking fewer than 12 credits or the equivalent for a~~  
13.24 ~~semester or term of enrollment and a part-time graduate student is a student considered part~~  
13.25 ~~time by the eligible institution the graduate student is attending. The minimum award for~~  
13.26 ~~undergraduate and graduate students is \$50 per term.~~

13.27 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

13.28 Subd. 6. **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation  
13.29 with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry,  
13.30 shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer  
14.1 a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as  
14.2 provided in this subdivision.

14.3 (b) An "eligible employer" means an employer operating a qualifying apprenticeship or  
14.4 on-the-job training program that has been approved by the commissioner.

14.5 (c) A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this  
14.6 subdivision if the person is:

14.7 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
14.8 States armed forces at any time;

14.9 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
14.10 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
14.11 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
14.12 11, 2001;

14.13 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
14.14 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible  
14.15 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
14.16 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

14.17 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
14.18 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
14.19 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
14.20 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
14.21 chapter 35, as amended.

21.20 (d) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
 21.21 subdivision must not exceed the following:

21.22 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

21.23 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

21.24 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and  
 21.25 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under  
 21.26 this subdivision; and

21.27 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person  
 21.28 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for  
 21.29 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

21.30 (e) No more than \$5,000 in aggregate benefits under this subdivision may be paid to or  
 21.31 on behalf of an individual in one fiscal year.

22.1 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's  
 22.2 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
 22.3 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

22.4 (g) Assistance for apprenticeship expenses and on-the-job training is available for  
 22.5 qualifying programs, which must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

22.6 (1) the training must be with an eligible employer;

22.7 (2) the training must be documented and reported;

22.8 (3) the training must reasonably be expected to lead to an entry-level position; and

22.9 (4) the position must require at least six months of training to become fully trained.

22.10 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

22.11 Subd. 7. **Additional professional or educational benefits.** (a) The commissioner shall  
 22.12 develop and implement a program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program  
 22.13 to pay additional benefit amounts to eligible persons as provided under this subdivision.

22.14 (b) A person is eligible for additional benefits under this subdivision if the person is:

22.15 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
 22.16 States armed forces at any time;

22.17 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
 22.18 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
 22.19 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
 22.20 11, 2001;

22.21 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
 22.22 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible

14.22 (d) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
 14.23 subdivision must not exceed the following:

14.24 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

14.25 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

14.26 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and  
 14.27 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under  
 14.28 this subdivision; and

14.29 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person  
 14.30 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for  
 14.31 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

15.1 (e) No more than \$5,000 in aggregate benefits under this subdivision may be paid to or  
 15.2 on behalf of an individual in one fiscal year.

15.3 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's  
 15.4 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
 15.5 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

15.6 (g) Assistance for apprenticeship expenses and on-the-job training is available for  
 15.7 qualifying programs, which must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

15.8 (1) the training must be with an eligible employer;

15.9 (2) the training must be documented and reported;

15.10 (3) the training must reasonably be expected to lead to an entry-level position; and

15.11 (4) the position must require at least six months of training to become fully trained.

15.12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

15.13 Subd. 7. **Additional professional or educational benefits.** (a) The commissioner shall  
 15.14 develop and implement a program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program  
 15.15 to pay additional benefit amounts to eligible persons as provided under this subdivision.

15.16 (b) A person is eligible for additional benefits under this subdivision if the person is:

15.17 (1) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United  
 15.18 States armed forces at any time;

15.19 (2) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively  
 15.20 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of  
 15.21 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September  
 15.22 11, 2001;

15.23 (3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has  
 15.24 died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible

22.23 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
 22.24 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

22.25 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
 22.26 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
 22.27 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
 22.28 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
 22.29 chapter 35, as amended.

22.30 (c) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
 22.31 subdivision must not exceed the following amounts:

23.1 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and  
 23.2 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

23.3 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's  
 23.4 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
 23.5 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

23.6 (e) A person eligible under this subdivision may use the benefit amounts for the following  
 23.7 purposes:

23.8 (1) licensing or certification tests, the successful completion of which demonstrates an  
 23.9 individual's possession of the knowledge or skill required to enter into, maintain, or advance  
 23.10 in employment in a predetermined and identified vocation or profession, provided that the  
 23.11 tests and the licensing or credentialing organizations or entities that offer the tests are  
 23.12 approved by the commissioner;

23.13 (2) tests for admission to institutions of higher learning or graduate schools;  
 23.14 (3) national tests providing an opportunity for course credit at institutions of higher  
 23.15 learning;

23.16 (4) a preparatory course for a test that is required or used for admission to an institution  
 23.17 of higher education or a graduate program; and

23.18 (5) any fee associated with the pursuit of a professional or educational objective specified  
 23.19 in clauses (1) to (4).

15.25 to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as  
 15.26 amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

15.27 (4) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who  
 15.28 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans  
 15.29 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits  
 15.30 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,  
 15.31 chapter 35, as amended.

16.1 (c) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this  
 16.2 subdivision must not exceed the following amounts:

16.3 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and  
 16.4 (2) ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000 in a lifetime.

16.5 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's  
 16.6 aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed ~~\$10,000~~  
 16.7 \$15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

16.8 (e) A person eligible under this subdivision may use the benefit amounts for the following  
 16.9 purposes:

16.10 (1) licensing or certification tests, the successful completion of which demonstrates an  
 16.11 individual's possession of the knowledge or skill required to enter into, maintain, or advance  
 16.12 in employment in a predetermined and identified vocation or profession, provided that the  
 16.13 tests and the licensing or credentialing organizations or entities that offer the tests are  
 16.14 approved by the commissioner;

16.15 (2) tests for admission to institutions of higher learning or graduate schools;  
 16.16 (3) national tests providing an opportunity for course credit at institutions of higher  
 16.17 learning;

16.18 (4) a preparatory course for a test that is required or used for admission to an institution  
 16.19 of higher education or a graduate program; and

16.20 (5) any fee associated with the pursuit of a professional or educational objective specified  
 16.21 in clauses (1) to (4).

20.6 Sec. 8. **VETERAN DOMICILIARY RESIDENT QUALITY OF CARE WORKING**  
 20.7 **GROUP.**

20.8 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** **The veteran domiciliary resident quality of care working group**  
 20.9 **consists of the following members:**

20.10 **(1) commissioners of the following agencies, or their designees:**

20.11 **(i) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and**

- 20.12 (ii) the Department of Health;
- 20.13 (2) two Department of Veterans Affairs staff with expertise in veterans homes, appointed  
20.14 by the commissioner of veterans affairs;
- 20.15 (3) two Department of Health staff with expertise in boarding care homes, specifically  
20.16 the licensure of the domiciliary and related standards of care, appointed by the commissioner  
20.17 of health;
- 20.18 (4) five medical professionals, including a medical doctor, a nurse, a mental health  
20.19 professional, and two other health care professionals, with expertise in veterans health care,  
20.20 appointed by the governor;
- 20.21 (5) up to three past or current domiciliary staff with experience caring for residents  
20.22 appointed by the governor; and
- 20.23 (6) four public members who have an interest in veterans affairs, including two public  
20.24 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two public members  
20.25 appointed by the majority leader of the senate.
- 20.26 Subd. 2. **Duties.** The working group shall meet on a regular basis and the first meeting  
20.27 must be no later than 45 days after the effective date of this section. The working group  
20.28 shall review and analyze the acuity of domiciliary residents and the current care model,  
20.29 including admission, care plans, and day-to-day care, and the current staffing structure and  
20.30 ratios. The working group shall provide recommendations on:
- 20.31 (1) staffing levels that are necessary to properly care for the range of acuity of residents;
- 21.1 (2) a care delivery model that focuses on appropriate and adequate care for residents;
- 21.2 (3) additional and ongoing training for domiciliary staff;
- 21.3 (4) sufficient management structure to ensure support and provide guidance to staff; and
- 21.4 (5) outcomes to determine if staffing levels and care delivery are appropriate or if, based  
21.5 on the outcomes, adjustments are necessary.
- 21.6 The working group shall provide information and recommendations to the legislature  
21.7 by January 15, 2024, by which the legislature can use as a foundation to make decisions  
21.8 and effectuate change that will ensure the standard of care and staffing levels are sufficient  
21.9 for the different resident acuity levels who are being cared for in the domiciliary.
- 21.10 Subd. 3. **Administrative provisions.** (a) The commissioner of veterans affairs or the  
21.11 commissioner's designee must convene the initial meeting of the working group. Upon  
21.12 request of the working group, the commissioner must provide meeting space and  
21.13 administrative services for the group. The members of the working group must elect a chair  
21.14 or cochair from the members of the working group at the initial meeting.

- 21.15 (b) Public members of the working group serve without compensation or payment of  
21.16 expenses.
- 21.17 (c) The working group expires January 15, 2024, or upon submission of the report  
21.18 required under subdivision 2, whichever is earlier.
- 21.19 (d) The working group may accept gifts and grants, which are accepted on behalf of the  
21.20 state and constitute donations to the state. Funds received under this paragraph are  
21.21 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans affairs for purposes of the working group.
- 21.22 Subd. 4. **Deadline for appointments and designations.** The appointments and  
21.23 designations authorized by this section must be completed by August 1, 2023.