

Subject Veterans of the Secret War in Laos Benefits

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Overview

This bill incorporates the recommendations from the legislatively created working group on benefits for veterans of the Secret War in Laos. The bill clarifies eligibility standards and protocols and modifies the benefits that veterans of the Secret War in Laos are entitled to receive.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Veteran designation. Directs the commissioner of public safety to designate on state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards that the holder is a veteran of the Secret War in Laos (SGU veteran). Effective June 1, 2027.
2	Burial fees. Authorizes veterans of the Secret War in Laos to be buried in state veterans cemeteries for a fee.
3	Definition. Adds definitions of "commissioner," "department," and "VA" to the definitions subdivision of the veteran of the Secret War in Laos section of law.
4	Eligibility for benefits and privileges. Adds certain SGU veteran benefits and privileges and removes others from the statutory list created by the legislature in 2025.
5	Eligibility determination. Directs the commissioner to establish an application process for persons seeking SGU veteran status and provides guidance on what information the applicant must include in the application.

Section	Description
6	Special consideration. Establishes a protocol for an applicant that is not deemed eligible for SGU veteran status under section 5 to request special consideration from the commissioner of the person's application.
7	Appropriation; SGU veteran designation. Appropriates \$141,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the commissioner of public safety for the costs to implement SGU veteran designations on driver's licenses and Minnesota identification cards. Makes the appropriation onetime. Effective July 1, 2026.
8	Effective date. Makes the sections effective August 1, 2026, unless stated otherwise.



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