



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Proposal: Excluding certain individuals from receipt of state-funded Veterans benefits, programs and services

Bill: HF 4334 (Rep. Olson, B.)/SF____ (Sen. Mitchell)

Background: MDVA seeks to create a statutory prohibition for those deemed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as ineligible to receive benefits due to being convicted of certain state and federal crimes. This proposal aims to rectify the discrepancy between federal and state benefit eligibility for Veterans who have forfeited their benefits due to criminal convictions. By aligning state and federal benefit disqualification MDVA assures the state that taxpayer resources are allocated judiciously and not given to those ineligible for federal benefits. It also allows the state's resource allocation to become more informed, to minimize errors, reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhance accuracy in benefit administration.

There are no negative impacts for Minnesota Veterans who are eligible for federal veteran benefits, the policy allows for a more equitable allocation of state-funded resources available to them in benefits, services, and programs. For Minnesota Veterans not eligible for federal veteran benefits, they are still eligible for state-funded resources that are non-veteran related and available to the general public.

The proposed statute aligns benefit disqualification with 38 U.S. Code Chapter 61.

Proposed language: No individual classified as a Veteran, as defined by Minnesota Statute 197.447, any former member of the armed forces, or their spouses and dependents shall qualify for state-funded benefits, services, or programs if the Veteran or former service member has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have forfeited their entitlement to federal benefits in accordance with 38 U.S. Code Chapter 61.

Serving Minnesota Veterans and Their Families

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