

1.1 Bliss and Xiong from the Veterans and Military Affairs Division to which was referred:

1.2 H. F. No. 3532, A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying eligibility for burial in  
1.3 state veterans cemeteries; amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 197.236,  
1.4 subdivisions 8, 9.

1.5 Reported the same back with the following amendments:

1.6 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.7 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 197.236, subdivision 8, is  
1.8 amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 8. **Eligibility.** (a) Cemeteries must be operated solely for the burial of the following  
1.10 persons:

1.11 (1) service members who die on active duty, eligible veterans, and ~~their spouses and~~  
1.12 ~~dependent children,~~ other persons as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 2402,  
1.13 paragraph (a), subparagraphs 1 to ~~5~~ 4, 7, and ~~7~~ 10;

1.14 (2) members of a reserve component of the armed forces and any member of the Army  
1.15 National Guard or the Air National Guard if:

1.16 (i) the member completed at least one full term of service and the member received an  
1.17 honorable discharge; or

1.18 (ii) the member's death occurs while a member in good standing with the member's  
1.19 assigned component and was not due to the member's willful misconduct; and

1.20 (3) spouses, surviving spouses, minor children, or unmarried adult children of a person  
1.21 as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 2402, paragraph (a), subparagraphs 1 to  
1.22 4 and 7, or clause (2). For purposes of this section:

1.23 (i) a "surviving spouse" includes a surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage;

(ii) a "minor child" means an unmarried child under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution; and

(iii) an "unmarried adult child" means a child who became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

(b) For purposes of this section, an honorable discharge does not include a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service.

(c) For purposes of this section, "willful misconduct" means an act involving conscious wrongdoing or known prohibited action as described in United States Code, title 38, section 3.1, paragraph (n).

(d) Applicants with convictions under United States Code, title 18, section 704, are not eligible for burial in state veterans cemeteries. By January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall establish a process to verify that applicants for burial have not been convicted of stolen valor.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Burial fees.** (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~~ qualified persons under subdivision 8, paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (3). The fees shall cover as nearly as practicable the actual costs of interment, ~~excluding the value of the plot.~~

(b) Upon application, the commissioner may waive or reduce the burial fee for an indigent eligible person. The commissioner shall maintain a policy, eligibility standards, and application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.

(c) No plot or interment fees may be charged for the burial of service members who die on active duty or eligible veterans, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 2402, paragraph (a), subparagraphs 1 to 4 and 7."

With the recommendation that when so amended the bill be placed on the General Register.

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This Committee action taken March 25, 2026

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....., Co-Chair

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....., Co-Chair