

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 297

**SESSION:** 2008 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Agriculture and veterans affairs policy

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## Overview

This act creates new laws and modifies existing laws carried out by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Board of Animal Health (BAH), the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council (MAELC), and the NextGen Energy Board.

### Article 1: Agriculture Policy

#### Overview

This article contains agriculture policy provisions including a new grant program for livestock producers, various changes to laws governing food and food handlers, modification of the MDA's waste pesticide collection program, and a phased-in increase of the state's biodiesel fuel mandate.

#### **1 Livestock investment grant program.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Authorizes the MDA to award a grant to a livestock producer who makes a qualifying investment in his or her operation. The grant is equal to ten percent of the first \$500,000 of investment, with a required minimum investment of \$4,000. A producer is eligible for more than one grant, as long as the

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total does not exceed \$50,000.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Defines the terms livestock, qualifying expenditures, and qualifying period.

**Subd. 3. Eligibility.** Lists the four criteria a producer must satisfy to qualify for a grant.

**Subd. 4. Process.** Directs the MDA, in consultation with certain legislative members, to develop criteria for ranking applicants. If eligible applications exceed the funding level in a given year, the MDA must create a waiting list and give those applicants priority when additional funding is available.

- 1 **Collection and disposal.** Requires the MDA to dispose of waste pesticides collected from pesticide end users in this state.
- 2 **Implementation.** Removes existing MDA authority to (1) limit the type and quantity of waste pesticide collected and (2) charge a fee to a person who drops off waste pesticide.
- 3 **Disposal site requirement.** Creates two collection regimes—one for agricultural waste pesticide and one for residential waste pesticide. For agricultural waste pesticides, the MDA must provide at least one disposal opportunity each year in each county and must work with the local solid waste management entity to advertise the collection event(s). For residential waste pesticides, the MDA must provide multiple disposal opportunities each year in each county and may contract with local solid waste management entities to perform these collections. Requires the MDA and any party it contracts with to record certain waste pesticide product information.
- 4 **Cooperative agreements.** Clarifies that the MDA must collect waste pesticides if it does not contract with another party to do so.
- 5 **Prohibited pesticide use.** States that applying a pesticide to a site where no application was requested, ordered, or contracted for is a violation of Chapter 18B, “Pesticide Control,” regardless of whether the product was applied according to the directions on its label. Exceptions include aerial mosquito control and other pesticide applications for public health purposes.
- 6 **Application fee.** Removes a requirement that the MDA spend at least \$400,000 each year on the waste pesticide collection program and replaces it with language requiring the MDA to spend the amount required to collect waste agricultural and residential pesticides under the modified collection program. However, the MDA has authority to suspend collections or partially pay contractors if the balance in the pesticide regulatory account at the end of the fiscal year is projected to dip below \$500,000.
- 7 **Revocation and suspension.** Authorizes the MDA to deny, revoke, or suspend a pesticide or fertilizer license if the person is from another state and either (1) had a comparable action taken by another state or (2) has been convicted of a violation of, or was subject to a final order imposing civil penalties under, the primary federal pesticide law—the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- 8 **Payment of corrective action costs.** Requires a person seeking state reimbursement for agricultural chemical cleanup costs to submit invoices along with their application. Requires a person to submit these invoices and the application for payment/reimbursement within three years of performing the eligible cleanup work or three years after the MDA approves the person’s related action design or plan for the cleanup work, whichever is later.

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- 9 Vending machine.** Defines “vending machine” to include machines operated by coin, paper currency, credit card, or other form of payment.
- 10 Classification.** Removes “coin-activated” as a descriptor of vending machine to align with the new definition of vending machine in section 10.
- 11 License fees; penalties.** Authorizes the MDA to collect delinquent license fees if a firm has gone multiple years without paying required food handler license fees. Requires certain licensed food handlers to include the value of services provided when determining the applicable annual license fee.
- 12 Disaster areas.** Allows the MDA to waive the fee and expedite a food handler plan review if the governor declares a disaster area in the state.
- 13 Annual fee; exceptions.** Expands the mandatory state inspection fee from coin-operated to all food vending machines (as defined in section 10). Adds “water dispensing machines serviced by a cashier” to the list of machines exempt from the state inspection fee, while allowing local units of government to pass ordinances requiring inspections and inspection fees.
- 14 Grading.** Requires the MDA to adopt and apply any egg grade/weight/quality standards issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Lowers the allowable temperature of eggs sold at retail from 45 to 41 degrees. Clarifies that a clause grandfathering in older egg equipment applies to wholesale, not retail, egg equipment. Disallows the sale of shell eggs that have been frozen barring MDA authorization.
- 15 Embargoes and condemnations.** Defines “animal” and expands the MDA’s embargo/condemnation authority to include adulterated or misbranded animals.
- 16 Employment of diseased person.** Removes venereal disease from the list of ailments that disqualifies someone from working with food products.
- 17 Water, plumbing, and sewage.** Requires a commercial food handler to have a water supply system that meets standards promulgated by the Department of Health.
- 18 Somatic cell count; goat milk.** Increases the maximum somatic cell count for raw goat milk from 1 million to 1.5 million.
- 19 Ethanol producer payments.** Amends the ethanol producer payment program law to prohibit deficiency payments to an entity that no longer produces ethanol at its original locale or to an assignee of such an entity.
- 20 NextGen Energy.** Adds a forest products industry representative to the board and moves the board’s sunset date back five years to 2014.
- 21 Expiration.** Extends the expiration date for the Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council from June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2013.
- 22 Emergency deterrent materials assistance.** Removes Department of Natural Resources’ authority to provide emergency fencing assistance to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis. (This authority was given to the BAH in Laws 2008, Chapter 274.)
- 23 Definitions.** Defines “animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment” and specifies that this term does not include performing surgery, dispensing or administering medications, or performing traditional veterinary care/diagnosis.
- This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 24 Animal chiropractic practice.** Allows the state Board of Chiropractic Examiners to authorize a licensed chiropractor to engage in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment. Requires a veterinarian referral before a licensed animal chiropractor can practice on the

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animal.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 25** **Scope of practice; animal chiropractic.** Establishes minimum criteria for registered animal chiropractors, including an active (human) chiropractor license and training in the field of animal chiropractic care from a course approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or another higher institution and consisting of no less than 210 hours.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 26** **Titles.** Allows a registered chiropractor to use the title “animal chiropractor.”

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 27** **Provisional interim status.** Allows a licensed chiropractor to practice animal chiropractic while the Board of Chiropractic Examiners creates animal chiropractic rules if the chiropractor has completed the education and training requirements in section 26. Disallows enforcement action against these chiropractors while the rules are created.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 28** **Educational criteria for licensure in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment; records; treatment notes.** Lists 19 criteria a licensed chiropractor must meet before the chiropractor may be registered by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners as an animal chiropractor. Requires a registered animal chiropractor to: maintain complete and accurate patient records for at least three years; make treatment notes and records available to the animal’s owner and communicate with the referring veterinarian if the owner so requests; and post a conspicuous sign in their reception area informing patients that nonhuman animals are treated on the premises.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 29** **Animal chiropractic continuing education hours.** Requires ongoing animal chiropractic education of at least six hours annually. These hours are in addition to the 20 hours already required for licensed human chiropractors and the course must be approved in advance by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 30** **Separate treatment room required.** Requires a separate table, equipment, and noncarpeted room for the treatment of nonhuman animals.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 31** **Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence; PAVE certificate.** Adds a definition for “PAVE,” a certificate demonstrating that a foreign trained veterinarian has demonstrated knowledge and skill equivalent to a graduate of an accredited/approved US college of veterinary medicine.

- 32** **License application.** Adds PAVE certificates to the list of acceptable items that applicants submit with their application for a license to practice veterinary medicine in Minnesota.

- 33** **Required with application.** Allows the applicant to submit a copy of their PAVE certification as part of the license application.

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- 34 Board to issue license.** Allows the Board to issue a license to practice to a qualified applicant who has passed the required examination and furnished a PAVE certificate.
- 35 Required with application.** Allows a nonresident doctor of veterinary medicine seeking to practice in Minnesota to submit a PAVE certificate as proof of education.
- 36 Temporary permit.** Allows the board to issue a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine in Minnesota to a person who has submitted an approved application and PAVE certification.
- 37 Authorized activities.** Clarifies that state veterinary medicine laws do not prohibit i) a graduate of a foreign college of veterinary medicine from working under the supervision of University of Minnesota veterinarian faculty in order to obtain a PAVE certificate or j) a licensed and registered chiropractor from practicing animal chiropractic.
- 38 Titles.** Allows a person with PAVE certification to use the titles veterinarian, animal doctor, animal surgeon, etc.
- 39 Faculty licensure.** Allows a person certified by the European Board of Veterinary Specialization not to have a standard veterinarian license as long as they obtain a special license and work in a hard-to-fill faculty position at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Medical Center. Requires certain foreign-trained faculty at the University of Minnesota operating with a temporary license to be under the direct supervision of a licensed, active veterinarian with a clean record for the last five years. Allows the holder of a temporary faculty license enrolled in the PhD program to apply for up to two additional consecutive two-year license extensions.
- 40 Service.** Allows the board to send cease and desist orders by US mail, rather than certified mail.
- 41 Dispensing.** Adds dispensing human drugs for extra-label use to the definition of "dispensing."
- 42 Prescription.** Adds dispensing human drugs for extra-label use and dispensing over-the-counter drugs for extra-label use to the definition of "prescription."
- 43 Prescription.** Allows a veterinarian or her/his authorized employee to dispense human drugs for extra-label use or over-the-counter drugs for extra-label use by a client without a separate written prescription provided there is proper documentation in the medical record and the veterinarian monitors the use of prescribed drugs by the client. Requires prescriptions or other veterinary authorizations to include the expiration date and number of authorized refills.
- 44 Label of dispensed veterinary drugs.** Adds employees to the list of persons who must provide certain information on the prescription's label and adds human drugs prescribed for extra-label uses to this list of prescription drugs requiring a label.
- 45 Extra-label use.** Changes the description of a person working for a veterinarian from "person working under the control" of a veterinarian to "an employee." Allows veterinarians to prescribe extra label uses for all drugs, not just veterinary drugs, for food-producing animals, subject to certain restrictions. Adds an additional restriction that the veterinarian must meet certain provisions of federal law.
- 46 Eligible blender.** Modifies the definition of "ethanol blender" to include a person creating gasoline-ethanol blends with any percentage of ethanol.
- 47 Gasoline blended with ethanol; general.** Removes the 10 percent (ethanol) limit on gasoline-ethanol blends, thereby creating general requirements for all gasoline-ethanol blends.
- 48 Gasoline blended with ethanol; standard combustion engines.** Provides a new category

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of gasoline-ethanol blends—those for use in standard combustion engines. Puts a 10 percent cap on the ethanol content in these blends. Also allows for other, richer blends (e.g. E20) if explicitly approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of the federal Clean Air Act, as amended. Requires the blend to comply with the general requirements in section 48.

**49 Gasoline blended with ethanol; alternative fuel vehicles.** Provides a second category of gasoline-ethanol blends—those for use in alternative fuel vehicles (i.e. vehicles that are currently allowed under federal law to run on higher concentrations of ethanol). Allows the blending to be done by a person who blends ethanol and gasoline who must clearly identify the resulting ethanol content or in a blending pump at the point of retail sale that is labeled “FLEX-FUEL VEHICLES ONLY.” Requires the blend to comply with the general requirements in section 48.

**50 Biodiesel content mandate.**

**Subd. 1. Biodiesel fuel.** Disallows biodiesel derived from virgin palm oil.

**Subd. 2. Minimum content.** Replaces the B2 requirement in effect now with a tiered content mandate. The first increase begins on May 1, 2009, when (almost) all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota must contain at least five percent biodiesel. The content level would increase two more times over the next six years. Specifies that the B10 and B20 levels apply only during the warm-weather months, with B5 required during the remainder of the year—unless a fuel standard is in place to address cold-weather diesel issues, in which case the mandates could apply year-round. States that the increases to B10 and B20 will take place as scheduled only if the commissioners of agriculture, commerce, and pollution control certify nine months in advance that three specific milestones have been met. Requires the commissioners to work with the biodiesel task force. Creates two avenues for mandate suspension/modification— inadequate supply or a significant difference in the wholesale prices of biodiesel and diesel that could cause economic harm to diesel retailers.

**Subd. 3. Exceptions.** Expands the list of entities exempt from the statewide biodiesel mandate and schedules all such exceptions to expire May 1, 2012.

**Subd. 4. Disclosure.** No change.

**Subd. 5. Annual report.** Requires the MDA to report to the legislature annually on implementation of the staged biodiesel usage mandate including related information on biodiesel price and supply. The report must include comments submitted by members of the biodiesel task force.

**51 Promotion of renewable liquid fuels.** Expands the scope of duties assigned to several state agencies regarding the promotion of alternative fuels by requiring these agencies to pursue federal approval for additional gasoline-ethanol blends for use in standard (i.e. non-flex-fuel) engines.

**52 Agricultural alcohol gasoline.** Removes the 10 percent (ethanol) cap in the definition of “Agricultural alcohol gasoline” in the chapter governing gasoline taxes. Removes mention of product specification requirements and directs the reader to the specs in sections 49 and 50.

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- 53 Biodiesel fuel.** Links the definition of biodiesel in gasoline tax law to the (modified) definition in section 51.
- 54 Gasoline blended with ethanol.** Removes the 10 percent (ethanol) cap in the definition of “Gasoline blended with ethanol” in the chapter governing gasoline taxes. Removes mention of product specification requirements and directs the reader to the specs in sections 49 and 50.
- 55 Comprehensive plan.** Requires any county board adopting or updating a county comprehensive plan to consider information on rare plants, animals, native plant communities, and other natural features in the county as provided by the Department of Natural Resources. In addition, the board of a county that has fewer than 80 percent of its presettlement wetlands remaining must consider goals and objectives that would protect open space and the environment.
- 56 Comprehensive plans in greater Minnesota; open space.** Requires the board of any county located outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and that is adopting or updating a county comprehensive plan to consider adopting specific goals, objectives, and ordinances for the preservation of agricultural, forest, wildlife, and open space land and that minimize development in sensitive shoreland areas.
- 57 Plan update.** Requires any county board or joint planning district that is adopting or updating a community-based comprehensive plan to consider information on rare plants, animals, native plant communities, and other natural features in the county/counties as provided by the Department of Natural Resources. In addition, the board of a county that has fewer than 80 percent of its presettlement wetlands remaining must consider goals and objectives that would protect open space and the environment.
- 58 Preparation and review.** Requires any municipal planning agency located in a county that has fewer than 80 percent of its presettlement wetlands remaining and preparing or recommending amendments to the comprehensive municipal plan to consider goals and objectives that would protect open space and the environment.
- 59 Comprehensive plans in greater Minnesota; open spaces.** Requires any municipality located outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and updating or amending a comprehensive plan to consider adopting goals, objectives, and ordinances for the preservation of agricultural, forest, wildlife, and open space land and that minimize development in sensitive shoreland areas.
- 60 Development plans and objectives.** Requires a municipality located outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and adopting official controls after July 1, 2008, to consider restricting the location of new development so as to achieve specific objectives intended to protect open space and the environment.
- 61 Title.** Names sections 56-61 the “President Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bill to Preserve Agricultural, Forest, Wildlife, and Open Space Land.”
- 62 Agricultural marketing and development.** Allows funds appropriated to the MDA for the AgBMP loan program and not spent in FY2008 to carry over into FY2009.
- 63 Bioenergy and value-added agriculture products.** Extends through the end of fiscal year 2009 the availability of a \$3 million appropriation for bioenergy grants to be awarded by the NextGen Energy Board.
- 64 Administration and financial assistance.** Allows the MDA to spend its fertilizer grant program administration allowance in FY2009. The MDA will use these funds in FY2009 to follow up with grant recipients on the status of their funded projects and to create the mandatory legislative report.

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- 65 Agricultural and open space preservation task force.** Creates a new task force to study and propose legislation that provides state and local incentives that encourage preservation of farms, privately owned forest lands, and other privately owned open spaces. Lists the parties that must be represented on the task force and requires a legislative report by January 30, 2009, at which point the task force expires.
- 66 Proposal; petroleum inspection fee revenue.** Requires the commissioners of finance, commerce, and pollution control to submit to the legislature a plan for eliminating—to the extent feasible—redundant fuel inspections and dedicating—to the extent feasible—all proceeds from a petroleum inspection fee to the Weights and Measures Division of the Department of Commerce for enhanced fuel quality assurance and biodiesel education activities.
- Background:* State law requires the Department of Revenue to assess a fee on licensed petroleum distributors equal to \$1 for every 1,000 gallons of petroleum products received by the distributor. Currently, the Department of Commerce receives \$0.81 of every dollar. The department is authorized to spend the money for three purposes: to cover the costs of its Weights and Measures Division, to monitor petroleum supply, and to make grants to providers of low-income weatherization services. The remaining \$0.19 must be deposited in the general fund.
- 67 Technical cold weather issues.** Requires the MDA and the Department of Commerce to convene a group with expertise in cold weather biodiesel and diesel issues and report back to the legislature by January 15, 2009, with a set of recommendations regarding the performance of these fuels in cold weather.
- 68 Bio-based diesel alternatives.** Requires certain agencies to report recommendations regarding bio-based diesel alternatives to the NextGen Energy Board and the legislature by January 15, 2011.
- 69 2008 Family Motor Coach Association event.** Authorizes a reduced camping area expansion fee for the 2008 Family Coach Association event at the state fairgrounds. The fee will be 50 percent of the standard fee of \$75 per each ten additional campsites.
- 70 Viral hemorrhagic septicemia testing.** Requires the Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the MDA and the Department of Health, to form a task force and create a plan for detecting and responding to the fish virus Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. A report to the legislature is due no later than January 5, 2009.
- 71 NextGen 2007 appropriation modification.** Directs the MDA to use up to \$300,000 of a prior appropriation (see section 64) for cold weather biodiesel blending grants to fuel blending facilities that serve Minnesota.
- 72 2007 appropriation modification.** Authorizes the MDA to use up to \$100,000 of a prior appropriation for activities that assist livestock producers in northwestern Minnesota whose economic livelihood is impacted by the bovine tuberculosis outbreak.

**Article 2: Veterans Affairs Policy****Overview**

- 1, 12 Deceased Military Personnel; List Created.** Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs,



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to the extent feasible, to develop and maintain a comprehensive list of Minnesota service members who have died of any service-connected cause while serving in the United States armed forces at any time. The list may include deceased service members who are the immediate family members of Minnesota residents, but who themselves were not Minnesota residents at the time of death.

Information collected pursuant to this section are nonpublic data, but may be disseminated to the individual's next of kin and, unless the next of kin disapproves, for ceremonial or honorary purposes to veterans' organizations, civic organizations, the news media, and to researchers. No other use or dissemination of the data is permitted. The bill explicitly directs that these data are not indicative of eligibility for veterans benefits.

- 2, 3, 4** **WWII Veterans Motorcycle License Plate Authorized.** The WWII veterans license plate has been available for regular passenger vehicles, and will now be available in a motorcycle version, as well.
- 5** **WWII Memorial Donation Match Account.** Money remaining in the account after all construction costs are paid is appropriated to the commissioner for services and programs for veterans and their families.
- 6** **Protection for Reservist-Owned Business During Military Service.** Provides a stay of civil court proceedings for the business of a Minnesota resident who, as a National Guard or other military reserve member, has been ordered into federal or state active military service for 60 or more consecutive days, and if a default judgment has been issued in the servicemember's absence, the court must reopen the judgment if so requested by the member.
- 7** **Brevet Rank.** Any National Guard member or former member who dies of service-connected causes while serving in state or federal active service or following such service may, at the discretion of the Adjutant General, be promoted for honorary purposes to the next higher rank, or to the rank of lieutenant or warrant officer if such commissioning had been pending for the member.
- 8** **Job Protection for Family Members of Servicemembers.** Forbids an employer from dismissing or taking adverse action against an employee because the employee's parent, spouse, or child is a servicemember, and from hindering the employee from attending the official military family functions involving the servicemember, such as deploying or returning ceremonies, reintegration sessions, and so on.
- 9, 10, 17, 18, 19** **Veterans Homes Transfer to the MDVA.** Technical amendments for transferring the Minnesota Veterans Homes to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 11** **Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Created.** Creates an advisory council to provide the commissioner of Veterans Affairs with expert advice and recommendations on providing veterans long-term quality health care and regarding the anticipated future health needs of Minnesota veterans. The Governor may make initial appointments to the council without complying with the statutory appointment process. The advisory council expires June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- 12** **Deceased Military Personnel; List Created.** [See Section 1.]
- 13** **State Veteran Cemeteries.** Amends statutes pertaining to the state veterans cemetery (at Little Falls) to permit one or more additional state veterans cemeteries, if so authorized and funded by a future act of the legislature. Revises and updates various archaic language. Prohibits hiring any new staff for any new veterans cemetery without explicit legislative approval.
- 14, 15, 16** **Minnesota GI Bill.** Amends the Minnesota GI Bill to provide a somewhat larger higher educational assistance grant to a veteran who has served 90 days or more in a hostile fire

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zone in any branch or unit of the U.S. Armed Forces at any time since 9/11. It increases the grant amount slightly by increasing (from 1.1 to 1.2) the multiplier for the “cost of attendance” target amount used in the grant formula. The bill also increases, to \$3,000 from \$2,000, the maximum amount of educational assistance from the program that may be awarded to an eligible veteran in any state fiscal year, while leaving unchanged the program’s lifetime benefit maximum of \$10,000 for a qualified veteran. The bill facilitates program administration by equating eligibility with certain military medals and makes a few technical changes as well. Finally, it removes the eligibility requirement that the veteran have been a resident at or near the time of the person’s military enlistment.

- 17, 18, 19 Veterans Homes Transfer to Veterans Affairs.** Technical amendments for transferring the Minnesota Veterans Homes to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. [*See sections 9 and 10.*]
- 20 Veterans Homes – Ombudsman for Patients.** Directs the Ombudsman for Veterans Homes residents to attend all meetings of the Veterans Health Care Advisory Council.
- 21 Vets Cemetery Trust Account: Funds Transfer.** All money in the *veterans cemetery trust account* in the special revenue fund must be transferred to the *permanent development and maintenance account* in the same fund.
- 22 State Veterans Cemetery Study; Report.** Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs to evaluate the status of and need for additional veterans cemeteries in the state, including in southern Minnesota. Report required.
- 23 Partnering for Home-Based Veterans Services; Report.** Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs (MDVA) to seek input from a broad range of private and faith-based social service and healthcare providers from throughout the state to determine the feasibility of public-private partnering in the delivery of home-based health-care services to veterans. Report required.
- 24 Veterans Homes Strategic Planning Group – Minneapolis Home; Report.** Directs the existing Veterans Affairs Strategic Planning Group to conduct additional in-depth planning and cost analysis for the Minneapolis Veterans Home, including a feasibility study of alternative models for use at that home and any other state veterans homes within the seven-county metro area. The planning must consider both the existing and alternative models for veterans health care delivery, including the use of private veterans-only nursing homes and the possibility of partnering for home-based services. Report required.
- 25 Construction Project Priority Listing.** Directs the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to continue to plan, develop, and pursue federal funding for the capital investment projects on the 2008 department priority listing, and in that planning must consider possible options for treatment for traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, and psycho-geriatric care. Report required.
- 26 County Veterans Service Working Group; Report.** Creates a working group of veterans and state and local officials or their representatives to discuss, evaluate, and plan for the implementation of the recommendations in the recent Legislative Audit report on county veteran service offices. Recommendations required. Group expires June 30, 2009.
- 27 Study of Veterans Hiring/Employment in State Government; Report.** Directs each hiring authority in state government to provide information regarding the hiring of veterans during fiscal year 2008 and, for the Executive Branch, at least one other earlier baseline year to be determined by the commissioner of Finance. Report required by each of the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches of government.
- 28 WWII Service Medallions.** Authorizes the commissioner of veterans affairs to provide,

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through veterans service organizations, commemorative service medallions to qualified surviving WWII veterans. Any money received for the medallions is appropriated to the commissioner.

**29 Revisor's Instruction; Veterans Homes.** Technical changes related to the transfer of the Minnesota Veterans Homes from the Veterans Homes Board to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

**30 Repealer.** Repealed sections include:

In §197.236, state veterans cemetery permanent trust account closed; and allocation of burial plots on first-come, first-served basis is repealed.

In §198, several provisions involving the structure, functions, and duties of Veterans Homes Board repealed due to transfer of authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs.