

Subject Veterans and military affairs 2022 omnibus bill

Bill S.F. 4233

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Overview

This is the veterans and military affairs 2022 omnibus finance and policy bill. It includes appropriations to the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Proposed policy reforms impacting these two agencies are included in article 2.

Article 1: Appropriations

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations

- 1 Appropriations.**
Establishes the fiscal years used for purposes of the appropriations provided in this bill and notes that many of the appropriations are supplemental to appropriations from the previous legislative session.
- 2 Military affairs.**
Contains various appropriations to the adjutant general of the Department of Military Affairs.
- 3 Veterans affairs.**
Contains various appropriations to the commissioner of veterans affairs.
- 4 New veterans homes; Bemidji, Montevideo, and Preston; appropriation.**
This section appropriates \$10,329,000 to the commissioner of veterans affairs to make upgrades and improvements to the Preston (\$985,000), Montevideo (\$6,955,000), and Bemidji (\$2,389,000) state veterans homes.
- 5 Appropriations given effect once.**
Clarifies that if an appropriation in this article is enacted more than once, it shall only be funded once.

Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

Section Description – Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

- 1 **Payment required.**
Requires notice of salary differential pay being available for two years after active service.

- 2 **Grant process.**
Expands the purposes for which the commissioner of veterans affairs can award unexpended funds in the veterans service office grant program to include funding programs and services that the commissioner determines are novel and innovative in serving veterans and their families.

- 3 **Grant amount.**
Increases the statutory maximums for the additional annual awards that the commissioner of veterans affairs may award to counties under the veterans service office grant program.

- 4 **Veterans service organizations grant program.**
Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs to establish a veterans service organizations (VSO) grant program to enhance the effectiveness of veterans services delivered in the state. Annual grant amounts are based on the number of full members a VSO has and each VSO's share of VA claims workload.

- 5 **Definitions.**
Amends and adds definitions used in the veterans bonus program including "eligibility period for the bonus," "guardian or conservator," "honorable service," "incapacitated person," "resident veteran," and "veteran."

- 6 **Bonus amount.**
Increases the bonus amount that veterans are entitled to receive under the veterans bonus program.

- 7 **Application process.**
Clarifies provisions of the application process for the veterans bonus program.

- 8 **Notices.**
Clarifies the notice provisions applied to applicants to the veterans bonus program.

- 9 **Deadline for application.**
Extends the deadline to apply for the veterans bonus program.

Section Description – Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

- 10 **Cancellation of debt related to military salary differential overpayments.**
Cancels debt held by service members who received salary differential overpayments in the past.
- 11 **Veterans homes; report.**
Requires the commissioner of administration to report on the use of supplemental veterans homes appropriations in article 1, section 4.



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