

Chapter 38

2023 Regular Session

Subject Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Bill

Bill H.F. 1937

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Overview

This act contains appropriations to the Departments of Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs. The bill also contains a variety of policy proposals related to the two agencies.

Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

This article contains appropriations to the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs. [H.F. 1937, article 1]

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

1 **Appropriations.**

Provides general guidance on the appropriations in sections 2 and 3.

2 **Military affairs.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$61,020,000 the first year and \$29,357,000 the second year to the Department of Military Affairs.

Subd. 2. Maintenance of training facilities. Appropriates \$9,951,000 the first year and \$10,064,000 the second year to maintain training facilities.

Subd. 3. General support. Appropriates \$36,755,000 the first year and \$5,279,000 the second year for general support. Of this amount, funding is provided for the Minnesota Cyber Coordination Cell, an Amy Combat Fitness Test Fieldhouse, the Minnesota military museum, and a Holistic Health and Fitness program.

Subd. 4. Enlistment incentives. Appropriates \$13,614,000 each year for enlistment incentives.

Subd. 5. Emergency services. Appropriates \$700,000 the first year and \$400,000 the second year for communication system replacement.

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

3 Veterans affairs.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$146,548,000 in the first year and \$132,011,000 in the second year to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subd. 2. Veterans programs and services. Appropriates \$56,523,000 the first year and \$31,214,000 the second year for the following veterans programs and services:

- Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)—\$1,225,000 each year;
- veterans service organizations—\$500,000 each year;
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)—\$7,865,000 each year;
- state’s veterans cemeteries—\$4,282,000 each year;
- honor guards—\$200,000 each year;
- MN GI Bill—\$200,000 each year;
- Gold Star Program—\$100,000 each year;
- County Veterans Service Offices—\$1,550,000 each year;
- Veteran Homelessness Initiative—\$4,311,000 the first year and \$1,311,000 the second year;
- Veterans on the Lake—\$50,000 the first year;
- Veterans bonus program—\$15,000,000 the first year [H.F. 656];
- Metro Meals on Wheels—\$540,000 each year [H.F. 122];
- Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum—\$225,000 the second year [H.F. 920];
- Every Third Saturday—\$100,000 each year [H.F. 2373];
- Veterans Campground wastewater system upgrades—\$744,000 the first year;
- Camp Bliss—\$150,000 each year [H.F. 1194];
- LinkVet Call Center—\$369,000 each year;
- Veterans resilience project—\$300,000 each year [H.F. 1353];
- Recently separated veterans program—\$350,000 each year; and
- Homeless veterans and SOAR program—\$1,035,000 each year.

Subd. 3. Veterans health care. Appropriates \$90,025,000 the first year and \$100,797,000 the second year to veterans health care. Requires the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature on reserve amounts maintained in the veterans home special revenue account.

Section Description – Article 1: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

- 4 **Cancellation; fiscal year 2023.**
 Cancels a 2023 appropriation. The funds are reappropriated in fiscal year 2024.

Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

Section Description – Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

- 1 **Definitions.**
 Modifies the definition of “resident veteran” for purposes of the veterans bonus program by eliminating the requirement that a veteran’s home of record at the time of entry into the military be located in Minnesota. **[H.F. 656]**
- 2 **Bonus amount.**
 Expands eligibility for the veterans bonus program. **[H.F. 656]**
- 3 **Reapplication allowed.**
 Authorizes veterans who were previously denied a bonus or a full bonus to reapply for the bonus based on the proposed expanded eligibility criteria. **[H.F. 656]**
- 4 **Educational assistance.**
 Increases the amount of educational assistance available to eligible service members and their family members under the Minnesota GI Bill. **[H.F. 1937]**
- 5 **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.**
 Increases the amount of the aggregate reimbursement that eligible service members and their family members are entitled to receive for costs associated with apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs under the Minnesota GI Bill. **[H.F. 1937]**
- 6 **Additional professional and educational benefits.**
 Increases the amount of the aggregate reimbursement that eligible service members and their family members are entitled to receive for costs associated with securing professional licenses and credentials under the Minnesota GI Bill. **[H.F. 1937]**
- 7 **Veterans programs and services.**
 Expands the class of persons who are eligible to receive eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy from the veterans resilience project. **[H.F. 1353]**

Section Description – Article 2: Veterans and Military Affairs Policy

- 8 **Veteran domiciliary resident quality of care working group.**
Establishes a working group to evaluate the quality of care that veteran domiciliary residents receive.
- 9 **Camp Bliss grant program.**
Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs to issue a grant to Camp Bliss and details the requirements for the camp to receive reimbursement from the commissioner under the grant. **[H.F. 1194]**
- 10 **Veterans homes cost of care calculation.**
Exempts the commissioner of veterans affairs, temporarily, from the requirement to perform an annual calculation of cost of care for the newly constructed veterans homes.



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