## HOUSE RESEARCH =

## Bill Summary =

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1982 **DATE:** March 9, 2012

**Version:** Delete everything amendment (H1982DE1)

**Authors:** McElfatrick and others

**Subject:** Veterans educational benefits

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## Overview

H.F. 1982, as amended by the delete everything amendment, establishes a new veterans education benefit for veterans and their spouses if they have exhausted other veterans educational benefits. These veterans can take up to 24 credits at Minnesota public institutions with payment of an administrative fee. The institution can apply for reimbursement of lost tuition to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Reimbursement payments are made from any excess appropriations to the Minnesota G. I. Bill program. The new program expires on June 30, 2019.

- **Definitions.** Defines "course," "eligible person," "legal resident," "institution of higher education," and "veteran" for the veterans education program.
- **Veteran education program.** Authorizes all eligible persons, including veterans and their spouses who meet eligibility criteria, to enroll in any course at a public postsecondary institution if space is available with payment of only an administrative fee.

To be eligible, a veteran or a veteran's spouse must have been eligible for the Minnesota G.I. bill program or federal veterans educational benefits but are no longer eligible at the time of enrollment. An eligible person can enroll in a course and be reimbursed for tuition paid, if space is available after all enrollment closes.

Eligibility for the veterans education program is limited to a lifetime total of 24 semester credits and excludes certain closed enrollment programs and farm and small business management programs.

Institutions must provide notice of the program in their catalogue and are responsible for determining qualifications.

Institutions may apply for cost reimbursement to Department of Veterans Affairs. Costs are paid for from the standing appropriation, capped at \$6 million per year, for the Minnesota G.I. Bill program after paying for the costs of the G.I. Bill program. Reimbursement payments are based the number of participating veterans and spouses and may be prorated if the maximum appropriation is insufficient to meet the applications for cost reimbursements.

- Appropriation; Minnesota G.I. Bill. Adds cost reimbursement for the Veterans Education Program as an eligible use of the Minnesota G. I. Bill appropriation which is limited to \$6 million from the general fund for any fiscal year. Requires the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to make payments to participating postsecondary institutions based on their application and the participation of eligible veterans and spouses.
- **Effective Date.** Makes this bill effective for courses beginning on or after July 1, 2012, and sets an expiration date for the program of June 30, 2019.