

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2557
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 7, 2014

Authors: Newton and others

Subject: Various veteran provisions modified

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Overview

Alters various existing laws with regard to veterans homes and other veterans programs.

Section

- 1 Veterans benefits and assistance.** Mandates county veteran services officers to encourage all veterans to participate in health insurance programs as well as dental insurance. Requires that county veteran services officers also assist veterans in acquiring coverage, where necessary.
- 2 Federal funding.** Clarifies that the commissioner of veterans affairs may request new federal funding only for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and making repairs to existing veterans homes. Any request of federal funds that would require a state match requires legislative approval.
- 3 Veterans homes; eligibility of veterans.** Establishes a statutory priority system for admission into veterans homes. Priority will be given to those in the following order:
 1. Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, and veterans with a 70 percent or higher service-connected disability rating;
 2. All other veterans;
 3. Priority for both those in clause 1 and 2 shall be given to people who established residence in Minnesota for two years immediately prior to admission to the veterans home, or to any veteran who lived in the state at the time they

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entered the armed forces;

4. spouses of veterans who are over the age of 65;

5. the same residency requirements in 3 apply to spouses under 4; and

6. Gold star parents.

4 **Report and study on recommendations from long-term care advisory commission report.** Requires the commissioner to review the long-term care recommendations in a 2007 report and indicate to the legislature which of those recommendations have been complied with, and which have not. In the case of those that have not, the commissioner shall identify the reasoning for non-compliance.

5 **Repealer.** Repeals an advisory council which sunsetted in 2013.