

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Funding for State Veterans Homes in Montevideo and Bemidji

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Overview

This bill provides bond appropriations for the design and construction of two new state veterans' homes, one in Bemidji and one in Montevideo that will be run by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). The appropriations are part of the 35 percent match which is necessary to be eligible to apply for the 65 percent match from the federal Veterans Administration to complete the proposed state veterans' homes. This bill authorizes the commissioner of Veterans Affairs to apply for federal funding for up to 140 beds for the two facilities and provides that the state shall pay the operating cost of the homes.

Section

- 1** **Short title.** Allows this section to be cited as the "Minnesota Veterans and Quality of Life Act."
- 2** **Appropriation.** \$6,000,000 is appropriated from bond proceeds for a veterans' home in Montevideo and \$10,000,000 is appropriated from bond proceeds for a veterans' home in Bemidji.
- 3** **Veterans home established.** Allows the commissioner of MDVA to apply for the 65 percent federal funding match to complete the veterans' homes and establish homes in Bemidji and Montevideo, with a total bed count for the two facilities of 140. It also provides that the state shall pay the operating costs for the homes. This is similar to how current state veterans' homes operate in Minnesota, with the state receiving a per diem for each eligible patient from the federal VA as well as resident maintenance charges from each resident to cover the cost of care.

Section

- 4** **Nonstate contributions.** Allows the commissioner of administration to accept contributions of land or money from non-state sources to raise the matching funds needed to apply for the federal match to complete the two homes.
- 5** **Bond sale.** Allows the commissioner of management and budget to sell and issue bonds for up to \$16,000,000.
- Effective date.** Provides that this bill is effective the day following final enactment.