

File Number: H.F. 728

Date: February 14, 2017

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Hilstrom and others

Subject: Veterans affairs; appropriating money for veterans support; providing a veterans nursing home tax credit

Analyst: Jeff Diebel
Nina Manzi, 651-296-5204

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Overview

This bill directs the commissioner of veterans affairs, commissioner of military affairs, and the commissioner of human services to work jointly in providing state-wide assistance and support to veterans who are residents of Minnesota. Funds are appropriated in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 to provide services, and a tax credit is offered to individuals paying for veterans living in a nursing home and on a waiting list for placement in a veterans home.

Section

- 1** **Fund expenditure.** Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs to use the state soldiers' assistance fund to issue grants to veterans required by a court to participate in substance abuse treatment or mental health counseling. Grants shall be issued on a case-by-case basis with consideration to the veterans total financial circumstances.
- 2** **Veterans nursing home.** Allows for a refundable income tax credit equal to 50 percent of nursing home costs for veterans who are on an active waiting list for placement in one or more Minnesota veterans homes. The maximum credit is \$30,000, if both spouses are eligible veterans. The veteran, or another person who pays the nursing home costs, may claim the credit. The credit is not allowed for months in which the veteran receives medical assistance. Provides an appropriation so that credit amounts in excess of liability will be paid as refunds on the individual's income tax return.

Section

- 3** **State health insurance study and report.** Directs the commissioners of veterans affairs, military affairs, and human services to jointly study and report on separate cost estimates related to permitting veterans and resident members of the National Guard who meet federal health care eligibility guidelines set by the United States Veterans Administration and United States Department of Defense to receive coverage under the medical assistance and MinnesotaCare programs.
- 4** **Honor guard.** Appropriates funds to the commissioner of veterans affairs to compensate honor guards at funerals for veterans.
- 5** **Homeless veterans.** Appropriates funds to the commissioner of veterans affairs for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to provide assistance to veterans and their families who are homeless or in danger of homelessness.
- 6** **Veterans domestic abuse prevention.** Appropriates funds to the commissioner of public safety for a grant to the Domestic Abuse Project to offer the change step program to all veterans who self-refer or are ordered by a court of law to participate in a domestic abuse counseling and education program.
- 7** **Mental health and substance abuse treatment.** Appropriates funds to the state soldiers' assistance fund for grants to veterans as provided in section 1.
- 8** **Veterans courts.** Appropriates funds to the State Court Administrator for the purpose of developing and supporting veterans courts throughout the state.