

Subject Veterans and Military

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Date April 18, 2024

Overview

This bill would rename the Mendota Bridge the “Gopher Gunners Memorial Bridge,” increase the Minnesota State Armory Building Commission’s maximum bonded indebtedness to \$45 million, and authorize the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to spend money appropriated for state veterans home operations during fiscal year 2025 in fiscal year 2024.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Gopher Gunners Memorial Bridge.
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Renames a bridge over the Minnesota River in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, commonly known as the Mendota Bridge, as the Gopher Gunners Memorial Bridge. Requires the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to adopt, erect, and maintain appropriate highway signs. Requires the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs to reimburse MnDOT for these costs.

2	State Armory Building Commission, powers.
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Allows the Commission to borrow additional money to construct and equip armories by increasing its maximum bonded indebtedness from \$15 million to \$45 million. (Under current law and this bill, the Minnesota State Armory Building Commission consists of the adjutant general of the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs and not less than two Minnesota National Guard officers above the grade of major, as selected and appointed by the adjutant general (Minn. Stat. § 193.142)).

3	Veterans health care.
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Authorizes MDVA to access money appropriated by the legislature for veterans home operations for the second year of the budget biennium (i.e., fiscal year 2025) in fiscal year 2024 if the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024 is insufficient.



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