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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4324

03/17/2022 Authored by Ecklund and Sundin

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy

04/19/2022 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to state government; establishing a budget for military and veterans affairs;

1.3 making policy and technical changes to various military and veterans affairs

1.4 provisions, including provisions related to veterans housing, veterans benefits,

1.5 veterans services, veterans bonus program, and veterans service office grant

1.6 program; creating a veterans service organizations grant program; requiring a

1.7 report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 197.608,

1.8 subdivisions 4, 6; 197.79, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 5, 10; Minnesota Statutes 2021

1.9 Supplement, section 196.081; Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article

1.10 1, section 37, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,

1.11 chapter 197.

1.12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.13 **ARTICLE 1**

1.14 **APPROPRIATIONS**

1.15 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.16 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are added to or, if shown in

1.17 parentheses, subtracted from the appropriations in Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter

1.18 12, article 1, to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations

1.19 are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years

1.20 indicated for each purpose. The figures "2022" and "2023" used in this article mean that

1.21 the addition to or subtraction from the appropriation listed under them is available for the

1.22 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively. "The first year" is the fiscal

1.23 year ending June 30, 2022. "The second year" is the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

1.24 Supplemental appropriations and reductions to appropriations for the fiscal year ending

1.25 June 30, 2022, are effective the day following final enactment.

1.26 **APPROPRIATIONS**

1.27 **Available for the Year**

3.1 Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation** \$ 500,000 \$ 40,514,000

3.2 The base is increased \$10,809,000 in fiscal

3.3 year 2024 and \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

3.4 The amounts that may be spent for each

3.5 purpose are specified in the following

3.6 subdivisions.

3.7 Subd. 2. **Veterans Programs and Services** 500,000 40,514,000

3.8 (a) **Base Adjustment.** The base is increased

3.9 \$10,809,000 in fiscal year 2024 and

3.10 \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

3.11 (b) **Veterans Bonus Program.** \$24,880,000

3.12 in fiscal year 2023 is for service bonuses to

3.13 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families

3.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This

3.15 is a onetime appropriation.

3.16 (c) **Veterans Service Organizations Grant**

3.17 **Program.** \$147,000 in fiscal year 2023 and

3.18 each year thereafter is for grants to

3.19 congressionally chartered veterans service

3.20 organizations meeting eligibility requirements

3.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.61,

3.22 subdivision 3, as designated by the

3.23 commissioner.

3.24 (d) **County Veterans Service Office Grant**

3.25 **Program.** \$450,000 in fiscal year 2023 and

3.26 each year thereafter is for funding the County

3.27 Veterans Service Office grant program under

3.28 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

3.29 (e) **Fisher House.** \$500,000 in fiscal year

3.30 2023 is for the purpose of supporting the

3.31 creation of a new Fisher House near the Fargo

3.32 Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center

3.33 campus. The facility will provide temporary

4.1 accommodations at no charge to families and
4.2 caregivers of veterans receiving care at the
4.3 Fargo VA Health Care System. This is a
4.4 onetime appropriation and is available until
4.5 the project is completed or abandoned, subject
4.6 to Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.642.

4.7 **(f) Redwood Falls State Veterans Cemetery.**
4.8 \$830,000 in fiscal year 2023 and each year
4.9 thereafter is for operations of the state's
4.10 veterans cemeteries, including operations in
4.11 Redwood County.

4.12 **(g) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
4.13 **Veterans. \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is**
4.14 **for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance**
4.15 **Council for Veterans to provide assistance**
4.16 **throughout Minnesota to veterans and former**
4.17 **service members and their families who are**
4.18 **homeless or in danger of homelessness,**
4.19 **including assistance with the following:**
4.20 **(1) supportive services to maintain housing;**
4.21 **(2) employment;**
4.22 **(3) legal issues;**
4.23 **(4) housing and housing-related costs; and**
4.24 **(5) transportation.**

4.25 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
4.26 must be made only to veterans or former
4.27 service members who have resided in
4.28 Minnesota for 30 days prior to application for
4.29 assistance and according to other guidelines
4.30 established by the commissioner. In order to
4.31 avoid duplication of services, the
4.32 commissioner must ensure that this assistance

5.1 is coordinated with all other available
5.2 programs for veterans.

5.3 This appropriation must be used for the
5.4 establishment and management of permanent
5.5 supportive housing options for homeless
5.6 veterans and former service members.

5.7 The base for this appropriation is \$4,200,000
5.8 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,200,000 each year
5.9 thereafter.

5.10 Any unencumbered balance remaining in this
5.11 subdivision in fiscal year 2023 is available in
5.12 fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

5.13 **(h) Increase Engagement and Outreach**
5.14 **Activities; Support Temporary Housing**
5.15 **Options.** \$1,714,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
5.16 each year thereafter is for temporary
5.17 alternative housing options for homeless
5.18 veterans and former service members and for
5.19 staff to increase outreach activities to end
5.20 homelessness. The commissioner of veterans
5.21 affairs may use funds for personnel, research,
5.22 marketing, and professional or technical
5.23 contracts.

5.24 **(i) Tenancy Supports and Landlord**
5.25 **Engagement.** \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2023
5.26 is for incentives for landlords to assist in
5.27 housing homeless veterans and former service
5.28 members, staff, and funding to remove barriers
5.29 to permanent housing. The commissioner of
5.30 veterans affairs may use funds for financial
5.31 assistance, personnel, research, marketing, and
5.32 professional or technical contracts. The base
5.33 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
5.34 \$975,000.

6.1 **(j) Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention**
6.2 **Initiative.** \$2,125,000 in fiscal year 2023 is
6.3 to address the problem of death by suicide
6.4 among veterans in Minnesota. The
6.5 commissioner of veterans affairs may use
6.6 funds for personnel, training, research,
6.7 marketing, and professional or technical
6.8 contracts. Of this amount, the commissioner
6.9 may use up to:

6.10 (1) \$400,000 to initiate a veteran connections
6.11 pilot project by issuing a request for proposals
6.12 to identify a community-based, mobile, mental
6.13 health, and recovery tool to provide a secure
6.14 environment for veterans to connect with other
6.15 veterans; and

6.16 (2) \$150,000 to develop, in consultation with
6.17 stakeholders, written information on the safe
6.18 storage of firearms and means restriction.
6.19 Stakeholders include organizations
6.20 representing gun sellers and gun owners and
6.21 organizations supporting suicide prevention
6.22 and mental health. The written information
6.23 must include information on Minnesota
6.24 Statutes, section 609.666, and on how to store
6.25 firearms safely, suicide risk factors, suicide
6.26 lifelines, and mental health crisis services. The
6.27 commissioner must provide the written
6.28 information to licensed firearm dealers,
6.29 shooting ranges, chiefs of police, sheriffs,
6.30 county public health departments, and
6.31 instructors on the safe use of firearms to
6.32 distribute to people buying or using firearms.

6.33 The base for this appropriation is \$2,025,000
6.34 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,175,000 in fiscal
6.35 year 2025.

7.1 (k) Metro Meals on Wheels. \$468,000 in
 7.2 fiscal year 2023 is for a grant to Metro Meals
 7.3 on Wheels to provide:

7.4 (1) home-delivered meals to veterans; and
 7.5 (2) technical, enrollment, fund-raising,
 7.6 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance
 7.7 to member programs.

7.8 The base for this appropriation is \$468,000 in
 7.9 fiscal year 2024 and \$0 in fiscal year 2025.

7.10 (l) Veterans Campground Wastewater
 7.11 System Upgrades. \$800,000 in fiscal year
 7.12 2023 is for one or more grants to the Veterans
 7.13 Campground on Big Marine Lake, a 501(c)(3)
 7.14 nonprofit organization, to design, engineer,
 7.15 permit, and construct four wastewater systems
 7.16 on campground property to increase the
 7.17 capacity of wastewater systems.

7.18 Sec. 4. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,
 7.19 is amended to read:

7.20 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services	27,073,000	22,153,000
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7.21 (a) **CORE Program.** \$750,000 each year is
 7.22 for the Counseling and Case Management
 7.23 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
 7.24 program.

7.25 (b) **Veterans Service Organizations.**
 7.26 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the
 7.27 following congressionally chartered veterans
 7.28 service organizations as designated by the
 7.29 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,
 7.30 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the
 7.31 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
 7.32 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
 7.33 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding

8.1 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
8.2 funding currently being provided by the
8.3 commissioner to these organizations.

8.4 **(c) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
8.5 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant
8.6 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for
8.7 Veterans to provide assistance throughout
8.8 Minnesota to veterans and their families who
8.9 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,
8.10 including assistance with the following:

- 8.11 (1) utilities;
- 8.12 (2) employment; and
- 8.13 (3) legal issues.

8.14 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
8.15 must be made only to veterans who have
8.16 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to
8.17 application for assistance and according to
8.18 other guidelines established by the
8.19 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication
8.20 of services, the commissioner must ensure that
8.21 this assistance is coordinated with all other
8.22 available programs for veterans.

8.23 **(d) State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000
8.24 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year
8.25 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
8.26 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to
8.27 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
8.28 in Redwood Falls.

8.29 **(e) Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for
8.30 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
8.31 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
8.32 197.231.

9.1 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is
9.2 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
9.3 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
9.4 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
9.5 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
9.6 197.791.

9.7 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
9.8 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
9.9 surviving family members of deceased
9.10 veterans.

9.11 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**
9.12 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the
9.13 County Veterans Service Office grant program
9.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

9.15 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
9.16 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
9.17 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
9.18 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
9.19 housing vouchers and other services to
9.20 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
9.21 former service members in Minnesota. The
9.22 commissioner may contract for program
9.23 administration and may establish a vacancy
9.24 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
9.25 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
9.26 \$1,311,000.

9.27 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a
9.28 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
9.29 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
9.30 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
9.31 therapy, transportation, and activities
9.32 customized for veterans.

9.33 (k) **Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the
9.34 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake

10.1 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,
10.2 including therapy, transportation, and activities
10.3 customized for veterans.

10.4 **(l) ~~Veterans~~ Veteran Resilience Project.**

10.5 \$400,000 each year is for a grant to the
10.6 ~~veterans~~ veteran resilience project. Grant funds
10.7 must be used to make eye movement
10.8 desensitization and reprocessing therapy
10.9 available to veterans and current military
10.10 service members who are suffering from
10.11 posttraumatic stress disorder ~~and~~ or trauma.

10.12 The base for this appropriation in fiscal year
10.13 2024 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

10.14 The veterans resilience project must report to
10.15 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
10.16 chairs and ranking minority members of the
10.17 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
10.18 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
10.19 15 of each year on the program. The report
10.20 must include an overview of the program's
10.21 budget, a detailed explanation of program
10.22 expenditures, the number of veterans and
10.23 service members served by the program, and
10.24 a list and explanation of the services provided
10.25 to program participants.

10.26 **(m) 9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year
10.27 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
10.28 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
10.29 task force must collect, memorialize, and
10.30 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the
10.31 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their
10.32 dependents. The task force must host a
10.33 remembrance program in September 2021.
10.34 This is a onetime appropriation.

ARTICLE 2

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS POLICY

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 196.081, is amended to read:

196.081 VETERANS STABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE; DATA; REPORT.

Subdivision 1. Veterans stable housing initiative. (a) The commissioner may establish a veterans stable housing initiative. If the commissioner establishes a veterans stable housing initiative under this section, the commissioner must provide resources and support to assist veterans experiencing homelessness in obtaining or maintaining stable housing.

(b) Data on individuals maintained by the commissioner in the Homeless Veteran Registry for purposes of the veterans stable housing initiative is private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and must not be disclosed or shared except for coordinating homelessness prevention efforts with:

(1) members of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

(2) Homeless Veteran Registry partners to address a veteran's episode of homelessness or maintain a veteran's housing plan through Department of Veterans Affairs funded programs.

(c) For purposes of this section, "homelessness" means that a veteran lacks a fixed, nighttime residence.

Subd. 2. Annual report. Beginning January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs and housing on the department's homelessness activities. The report must include the annual inflow and outflow of former service members on the homeless veteran registry, the number of currently homeless former service members, the utilization of homeless programs to prevent and end a former service member's episode of homelessness, and identify trends in the homeless response system.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. Grant process. (a) The commissioner shall determine the process for awarding grants. A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the operations of the County Veterans Service Office.

(b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as developed in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant under subdivision 6 only for a qualifying

12.1 use and if there are sufficient funds remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount
12.2 of the grant.

12.3 (c) The commissioner is authorized to use any unexpended funding for this program to
12.4 ~~provide training and education for county veterans service officers.~~ for the following
12.5 purposes:

12.6 (1) to provide training and education for county veterans service officers; and

12.7 (2) to provide additional grants on a competitive basis to any county that proposes to
12.8 provide programs and services that the commissioner determines to be new and innovative
12.9 in serving veterans and their families.

12.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

12.11 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each county is eligible to receive an annual grant of \$7,500
12.12 for the following purposes:

12.13 (1) to provide outreach to the county's veterans;

12.14 (2) to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society;

12.15 (3) to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other
12.16 community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans;

12.17 (4) to reduce homelessness among veterans; and

12.18 (5) to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office.

12.19 (b) In addition to the grant amount in paragraph (a), each county is eligible to receive
12.20 an additional annual grant under this paragraph. The amount of each additional annual grant
12.21 must be determined by the commissioner and may not exceed:

12.22 (1) \$0, if the county's veteran population is less than 1,000;

12.23 (2) \$2,500, if the county's veteran population is 1,000 or more but less than 3,000;

12.24 (3) \$5,000, if the county's veteran population is 3,000 or more but less than ~~4,999~~ 5,000;

12.25 (4) \$7,500, if the county's veteran population is 5,000 or more but less than ~~9,999~~ 10,000;

12.26 (5) \$10,000, if the county's veteran population is 10,000 or more but less than ~~19,999~~
12.27 20,000;

12.28 (6) \$15,000, if the county's veteran population is 20,000 or more but less than ~~29,999~~
12.29 30,000; or

12.30 (7) \$20,000, if the county's veteran population is 30,000 or more.

13.1 (c) The Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers is eligible to receive
13.2 an annual grant of ~~\$50,000~~ \$100,000. The grant shall be used for administrative costs of
13.3 the association, certification of mandated county veterans service officer training and
13.4 accreditation, and costs associated with reintegration services.

13.5 The veteran population of each county shall be determined by the figure supplied by the
13.6 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as adopted by the commissioner.

13.7 Sec. 4. [197.61] VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

13.8 Subdivision 1. Grant program. A veterans service organization grant program is
13.9 established to provide grants to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations
13.10 (VSO) to enhance the effectiveness of veterans services. The program shall be administered
13.11 by the commissioner of veterans affairs.

13.12 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
13.13 meanings given.

13.14 (b) "Accredited representation" means providing representation under the authority
13.15 granted by the VA to representatives, agents, and attorneys to assist claimants in the
13.16 preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits.

13.17 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of veterans affairs or a designee.

13.18 (d) "Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations" are organizations that
13.19 have been granted charters by Congress through the enactment of public laws. Each
13.20 congressionally chartered VSO is listed in United States Code, title 36, subtitle II: Patriotic
13.21 and National Organizations.

13.22 (e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

13.23 (f) "Full member" means a veteran who meets the requirements for membership in a
13.24 congressionally chartered veterans service organization and is entitled to all of the rights
13.25 and privileges thereof. Full member does not include an associate or auxiliary member.

13.26 (g) "VA" means the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

13.27 Subd. 3. Eligibility. To be eligible for a grant under subdivision 6, a veterans service
13.28 organization must provide:

13.29 (1) accredited representation for the preparation and presentation of veteran claims to
13.30 the United States government for compensation and other benefits to which a veteran is
13.31 entitled as a result of the veteran's military service;

14.1 (2) a state or department level veterans service officer to provide programs and services
14.2 to veterans; or

14.3 (3) statewide transportation services to veterans.

14.4 Subd. 4. **Grant process.** (a) A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the
14.5 operations of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations.

14.6 (b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as
14.7 required in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant for a qualifying use if there is sufficient
14.8 grant money remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount of the grant.

14.9 Subd. 5. **Qualifying uses.** The commissioner shall develop a list of qualifying uses for
14.10 grants awarded under this section.

14.11 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each congressionally chartered veterans service organization
14.12 is eligible to receive an annual grant determined by the commissioner as follows:

14.13 (1) a dollar amount per full member for each organization member to be established by
14.14 the commissioner. The dollar amount may be adjusted every biennium, subject to available
14.15 funding; and

14.16 (2) a dollar amount for each organization, established by the commissioner, based on
14.17 the organization's share of the VA claims workload for veterans and their dependents who
14.18 reside in Minnesota. The VA claims workload must be reported as a percentage of the state's
14.19 total VA workload.

14.20 (b) The VA claims workload for each congressionally chartered veterans service
14.21 organization must be determined by a report supplied by the VA, as adopted by the
14.22 commissioner.

14.23 Subd. 7. **Recapture.** If a congressionally chartered veterans service organization fails
14.24 to use the grant for a qualified use approved by the commissioner or does not spend the
14.25 allocated grant money, the commissioner shall seek recovery of the grant from the
14.26 organization and the organization must repay the grant amount or any unused grant money.

14.27 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14.28 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
14.29 meanings given them.

14.30 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal
14.31 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal

15.1 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this
15.2 section.

15.3 (b) "Application" means a request for a bonus payment by a veteran, a veteran's
15.4 beneficiary, or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal representative through
15.5 submission of written information on a form designed by the commissioner for this purpose.

15.6 (c) "Beneficiary" means in relation to a deceased veteran and in the order named:

15.7 (1) the surviving spouse, if not remarried;

15.8 (2) the children of the veteran, if there is no surviving spouse or the surviving spouse
15.9 has remarried;

15.10 (3) the veteran's surviving parent or parents;

15.11 (4) the veteran's surviving sibling or siblings; or

15.12 (5) the veteran's estate.

15.13 (d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15.14 (e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15.15 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from ~~August 2, 1990, to July 31,~~
15.16 ~~1991~~ September 11, 2001, to August 30, 2021.

15.17 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor
15.18 or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or
15.19 institution in which the ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized
15.20 to accept money for the benefit of the minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the person
15.21 determined by the commissioner to be the person who is legally charged with the
15.22 responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran,
15.23 or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who has assumed the
15.24 responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran.

15.25 (h) "Honorable service" means honorable federal service in the United States armed
15.26 forces, as evidenced by:

15.27 (1) an honorable discharge;

15.28 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

15.29 (3) in the case of an officer, a certificate of honorable service; or

16.1 (4) in the case of an applicant who is currently serving in active duty in the United States
 16.2 armed forces, a certificate from an appropriate service authority that the applicant's service
 16.3 to date has been honorable.

16.4 (i) "Incapacitated person" means an individual who, for reasons other than being a minor,
 16.5 lacks sufficient understanding or the capacity to make personal decisions and who is unable
 16.6 to meet the individual's own personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or
 16.7 safety even when assisted by appropriate technology or supported decision making.

16.8 ~~(j)~~ (j) "Resident veteran" means a veteran who served in active duty in the United States
 16.9 armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, and who also:

16.10 (1) has been separated or discharged from the United States armed forces, and whose
 16.11 ~~home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the United States armed forces, as~~
 16.12 ~~indicated on the person's form DD-214 or other documents the commissioner may authorize,~~
 16.13 ~~is the state of Minnesota~~ has lived in Minnesota for at least 30 days at the time of application
 16.14 with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant
 16.15 may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license; a state
 16.16 identification card; a voter registration card; a rent receipt; a statement by the landlord,
 16.17 apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address;
 16.18 or other form of verification approved by the commissioner; or

16.19 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an
 16.20 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United
 16.21 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) ~~had~~ has
 16.22 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the
 16.23 United States armed forces in the veteran's official military personnel file.

16.24 ~~(k)~~ (k) "Service connected" means caused by an injury or disease incurred or aggravated
 16.25 while on active duty, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

16.26 ~~(l)~~ (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447; and does not include a
 16.27 member of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces
 16.28 ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes:

16.29 ~~(1)~~ a person who is providing honorable service on active duty in the United States
 16.30 armed forces and has not been separated or discharged; ~~or.~~

16.31 ~~(2) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including~~
 16.32 ~~the National Guard, who was ordered to active duty under United States Code, title 10,~~
 16.33 ~~section 673b, during the eligibility period for the bonus and who was deployed to a duty~~

17.1 ~~station outside the state of Minnesota, as verified by the appropriate service authority. An~~
17.2 ~~applicant's DD-214 form showing eligibility for or award of the Southwest Asia service~~
17.3 ~~medal during the eligibility period for the bonus will suffice as verification.~~

17.4 ~~"Veteran" does not include a member of the National Guard or the reserve components~~
17.5 ~~of the United States armed forces ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training.~~

17.6 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

17.7 Subd. 2. **Bonus amount.** (a) For a resident veteran who provided honorable service in
17.8 the United States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, the
17.9 bonus amount is:

17.10 (1) ~~\$300~~ \$600, if the veteran did not receive the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
17.11 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
17.12 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

17.13 (2) ~~\$600~~ \$1200, if the veteran received the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed Forces
17.14 Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal,
17.15 or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

17.16 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
17.17 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
17.18 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus, and
17.19 died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or
17.20 condition.

17.21 (b) In the case of a deceased veteran, the commissioner shall pay the bonus to the veteran's
17.22 beneficiary.

17.23 ~~(e) No payment may be made to a veteran or beneficiary who has received a similar~~
17.24 ~~bonus payment from another state.~~

17.25 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

17.26 Subd. 3. **Application process.** A veteran, or the beneficiary of a veteran, entitled to a
17.27 bonus may make application for a bonus to the department ~~on a form~~ as prescribed by the
17.28 commissioner and verified by the applicant. If the veteran is ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated or
17.29 the veteran's beneficiary is a minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the application must be
17.30 made by the person's guardian or conservator. An application must be accompanied by
17.31 evidence of residency, honorable service, active duty service during the eligibility period
17.32 for the bonus, and any other information the commissioner requires. The applicant must

18.1 indicate on the application form the bonus amount for which the applicant expects to be
18.2 eligible.

18.3 If the information provided in the application is incomplete, the department must notify
18.4 the applicant in writing of that fact and must identify the items of information needed to
18.5 make a determination. After notifying an applicant that the person's application is incomplete,
18.6 the department shall hold the application open for up to 120 days while awaiting further
18.7 information from the applicant, and the applicant may submit that information within the
18.8 120-day period without filing an appeal and request for review.

18.9 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

18.10 Subd. 5. **Notices.** Notices and correspondence to an applicant must be directed to the
18.11 applicant by mail at the address listed in the application or electronically. Notices and
18.12 correspondence to the commissioner must be addressed to the commissioner's office ~~in St.~~
18.13 ~~Paul~~ or the designated department system.

18.14 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

18.15 Subd. 10. **Deadline for applications.** The application period for the bonus program
18.16 established in this section shall be ~~November 1, 1997, to June 30, 2001~~ July 1, 2022, to
18.17 June 30, 2024. The department may not receive or accept new applications after June 30,
18.18 ~~2001~~ 2024.