

H. F. No. 728

(b) For purposes of this section, "resident" means a person living in Minnesota for at least 30 days with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license, a state identification card, a voter registration card, a rent receipt, a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address, or other form of verification approved by the commissioner.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the fund is appropriated to be used in the manner determined by the commissioner of veterans affairs for these purposes.

(d) The commissioner shall issue grants to veterans who are required to participate in substance abuse treatment or mental health counseling by a court of law. A veteran is not required to qualify under the schedule of maximum monthly allowances to be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph. The commissioner shall issue grants under this paragraph on a case-by-case basis considering the totality of the veteran's financial circumstances. The commissioner shall presume a veteran who either qualified for appointment of a public defender under section 611.17, or is participating in veterans court, is financially qualified to receive a grant under this paragraph.

Sec. 2. **[290.0682] VETERANS NURSING HOME CREDIT.**

Subdivision 1. **Credit allowed.** (a) An eligible veteran or other individual who pays for the eligible veteran to live in a nursing home is allowed a credit against the tax due under this chapter. The credit equals 50 percent of the amount the individual paid for each qualified month in which the eligible veteran lived in a nursing home. The maximum credit is \$30,000 for married couples filing separate returns, and \$60,000 for all other filers.

(b) For a part-year resident, the credit must be allocated based on the percentage calculated under section 290.06, subdivision 2c, paragraph (e).

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

(b) "Eligible veteran" means a Minnesota resident who:

(1) meets the definition of "veteran" provided in section 197.447;

(2) meets the eligibility requirements to reside in a Minnesota veterans home as provided in section 198.01; and

(3) has applied for admission to one or more Minnesota veterans homes and is on an active waiting list.

3.1 Eligible veteran does not include an individual who has been offered and declined placement
3.2 in a Minnesota veterans home.

3.3 (c) "Nursing home" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 144A.01,
3.4 subdivision 5.

3.5 (d) "Qualified month" means a month in which the eligible veteran does not receive
3.6 medical assistance under chapter 256B.

3.7 Subd. 3. **Credit refundable.** If the amount of credit which the claimant is eligible to
3.8 receive under this section exceeds the claimant's tax liability under this chapter, the
3.9 commissioner shall refund the excess to the claimant.

3.10 Subd. 4. **Appropriation.** An amount sufficient to pay the refunds required by this section
3.11 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner.

3.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December
3.13 31, 2016.

3.14 Sec. 3. **VETERANS AND GUARDSMEN ENTITLED TO STATE HEALTH**
3.15 **INSURANCE; STUDY; REPORT.**

3.16 The commissioner of veterans affairs, the commissioner of military affairs, and the
3.17 commissioner of human services shall jointly study and report on the feasibility of permitting
3.18 veterans and resident members of the state's National Guard who meet the federal health
3.19 care eligibility guidelines for veterans and guardsmen set by the United States Veterans
3.20 Administration and the United States Department of Defense to receive coverage under the
3.21 medical assistance and MinnesotaCare programs. The study shall provide separate cost
3.22 estimates for providing coverage under medical assistance and MinnesotaCare, and shall
3.23 provide recommendations for maximizing federal financial participation. By January 1,
3.24 2018, the commissioners shall provide a copy of the report to the chairs and ranking minority
3.25 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs, military affairs,
3.26 and human services.

3.27 Sec. 4. **HONOR GUARD; APPROPRIATION.**

3.28 \$..... in fiscal year 2018 and \$..... in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated to the
3.29 commissioner of veterans affairs for compensation for honor guards at the funerals of
3.30 veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.231.

4.1 Sec. 5. **MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS;**
4.2 **APPROPRIATION.**

4.3 \$..... in fiscal year 2018 and \$..... in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated to the
4.4 commissioner of veterans affairs for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
4.5 to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to veterans and their families who are homeless
4.6 or in danger of homelessness.

4.7 Sec. 6. **VETERANS DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION; CHANGE STEP**
4.8 **PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION.**

4.9 \$..... in fiscal year 2018 and \$..... in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the general
4.10 fund to the commissioner of public safety for a grant to the Domestic Abuse Project to offer
4.11 the change step program to all veterans who self-refer or are ordered by a court of law to
4.12 participate in a domestic abuse counseling and education program.

4.13 Sec. 7. **SOLDIERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION.**

4.14 \$..... in fiscal year 2018 and \$..... in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the general
4.15 fund to the state soldiers' assistance fund. The commissioner of veterans affairs must use
4.16 this appropriation to fund grants to veterans as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, section
4.17 197.05, paragraph (d).

4.18 Sec. 8. **VETERANS COURTS; APPROPRIATION.**

4.19 \$..... in fiscal year 2018 and \$..... in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the general
4.20 fund to the State Court Administrator for the purpose of developing and supporting veterans
4.21 courts throughout the state. This appropriation is available until spent.