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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 919

02/11/2019 Authored by Xiong, T.; Ecklund; Lueck; Lee; Xiong, J., and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; establishing a new state holiday to recognize Hmong
1.3 people who assisted the United States during the Vietnam War; proposing coding
1.4 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 10.

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

1.6 Section 1. [10.5805] HMONG VETERANS DAY; STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

1.7 (a) May 14 of each year is designated as Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial Day in honor
1.8 of Southeast Asians, Americans, and their allies who served, suffered, sacrificed, or died
1.9 in the Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War in the years 1961 to 1975 in support of
1.10 the armed forces of the United States, and in recognition of the significance of May 14,
1.11 1975, the last day of airlift evacuation of officers and their families from the covert
1.12 headquarters in Long Tieng, Laos, to the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand. At least
1.13 35,000 Hmong Special Guerrilla Unit soldiers lost their lives protecting American troops.
1.14 The Secret War wiped out one-half of the Hmong population in Laos and they were facing
1.15 genocide after the war. Those who survived escaped to western countries to start a new life.
1.16 Each year, the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring the observance.

1.17 (b) Schools are encouraged to read a passage about Hmong history or this statute to
1.18 students in honor of this day on May 14 or, if May 14 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, on the
1.19 Friday preceding May 14. Businesses may close in honor of this day and an employee may
1.20 request the day off without pay with two weeks' notice to the employer in observance of
1.21 this day.

1.22 (c) The governor shall order the American flag and Minnesota flag flown on the grounds
1.23 of the Capitol area and other state property to be flown at half-staff on May 14. Local

- 2.1 governments, private businesses, and public and private schools are encouraged to fly
- 2.2 American and Minnesotan flags at half-staff on May 14.