

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to veterans; requiring an interview for certain veterans claiming veterans  
1.3 preference for positions of state government employment; applying to state civil  
1.4 service certain removal provisions in current local government law; requiring  
1.5 a report of certain state employment statistics pertaining to veterans; changing  
1.6 funding for supportive housing for veterans and homeless persons; amending  
1.7 Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 43A.11, subdivision 7; 197.455, subdivision  
1.8 1; Laws 2006, chapter 258, sections 19, subdivisions 1, 4, as amended; 22,  
1.9 subdivisions 1, 3.

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

1.11 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 43A.11, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 7. **Ranking of veterans.** Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications  
1.13 for a vacant position and claim disabled veteran's preference shall be listed in the applicant  
1.14 pool ahead of all other applicants. Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications for a  
1.15 vacant position and claim nondisabled veteran's preference shall be listed in the applicant  
1.16 pool after those claiming disabled veteran's preference and ahead of nonveterans. Each  
1.17 recently separated veteran who meets minimum qualifications for a vacant position  
1.18 and has claimed a veterans or disabled veterans preference must be considered for the  
1.19 position. The top five recently separated veterans must be granted an interview for the  
1.20 position by the hiring authority.

1.21 The term "recently separated veteran" means a veteran, as defined in section  
1.22 197.447, who has served in active military service, at any time on or after September  
1.23 11, 2001, and who has been honorably discharged from active service, as shown by the  
1.24 person's form DD-214.

1.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009, and applies to all  
1.26 vacancies posted on or after that date.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 197.455, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.2 Subdivision 1. **Application.** (a) This section shall govern preference of a veteran  
2.3 under the civil service laws, charter provisions, ordinances, rules or regulations of a  
2.4 county, city, town, school district, or other municipality or political subdivision of this  
2.5 state. Any provision in a law, charter, ordinance, rule or regulation contrary to the  
2.6 applicable provisions of this section is void to the extent of such inconsistency.

2.7 (b) Sections 197.46 to ~~197.48~~ shall not 197.481 also apply to ~~state civil service~~. a  
2.8 veteran who is an incumbent in a classified appointment in the state civil service and has  
2.9 completed the probationary period for that position, as defined under section 43A.16.  
2.10 In matters of dismissal from such a position, a qualified veteran has the irrevocable  
2.11 option of using the procedures described in sections 197.46 to 197.481, or the procedures  
2.12 provided in the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the person, but not both.  
2.13 For a qualified veteran electing to use the procedures of sections 197.46 to 197.481, the  
2.14 matters governed by those sections must not be considered grievances under a collective  
2.15 bargaining agreement, and if a veteran elects to appeal the dispute through those sections,  
2.16 the veteran is precluded from making an appeal under the grievance procedure of the  
2.17 collective bargaining agreement.

2.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009, and applies to  
2.19 appointments to state and local government positions of employment made on or after  
2.20 that date.

2.21 Sec. 3. Laws 2006, chapter 258, section 19, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.22 Subdivision 1. To the commissioner of  
2.23 administration for the purposes specified in this ~~12,090,000~~  
2.24 section 21,418,000

2.25 Sec. 4. Laws 2006, chapter 258, section 19, subdivision 4, as amended by Laws 2008,  
2.26 chapter 365, section 15, is amended to read:

2.27 Subd. 4. **Hastings Veterans Home Supportive** ~~700,000~~  
2.28 **Housing** 10,028,000

2.29 (a) \$700,000 is to design 60 units of  
2.30 permanent supportive housing for veterans  
2.31 with disabilities.

2.32 The commissioner of veterans affairs and  
2.33 the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency  
2.34 must work together cooperatively on

3.1 the development of a viable permanent  
3.2 supportive housing project to serve primarily  
3.3 veterans on the campus of the Hastings  
3.4 home. For purposes of this project, the  
3.5 commissioners of veterans affairs and  
3.6 administration may enter into financing  
3.7 agreements with the Minnesota Housing  
3.8 Finance Agency to obtain money to design,  
3.9 construct, and furnish housing for veterans  
3.10 upon terms and conditions acceptable to the  
3.11 commissioners.

3.12 (b) \$9,328,000 is to construct 60 units of  
3.13 permanent supportive housing for low-  
3.14 and moderate-income veterans and other  
3.15 low- and moderate-income households who  
3.16 have experienced long-term homelessness  
3.17 or are at risk of experiencing long-term  
3.18 homelessness. At least 90 percent of the units  
3.19 must be occupied by households who either  
3.20 have been without a permanent residence  
3.21 for at least 12 months or on at least four  
3.22 occasions in the last three years, or who are  
3.23 at significant risk of lacking a permanent  
3.24 residence for at least 12 months or on at least  
3.25 four occasions in the last three years. The  
3.26 housing must provide or coordinate with  
3.27 linkages to services necessary for residents  
3.28 to maintain housing stability and maximize  
3.29 opportunities for education and employment.

3.30 Sec. 5. Laws 2006, chapter 258, section 22, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 3.31 Subdivision 1. To the Housing Finance Agency | <del>19,500,000</del> |
| 3.32 for the purposes specified in this section   | <u>10,172,000</u>     |

3.33 Sec. 6. Laws 2006, chapter 258, section 22, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

4.1 Subd. 3. **Supportive Housing for Long-term** ~~17,500,000~~  
4.2 **Homeless** 8,172,000

4.3 For loans and grants for publicly owned  
4.4 permanent rental housing under Minnesota  
4.5 Statutes, section 462A.202, subdivision 3a,  
4.6 for persons who either have been without a  
4.7 permanent residence for at least 12 months  
4.8 or on at least four occasions in the last  
4.9 three years, or who are at significant risk of  
4.10 lacking a permanent residence for at least 12  
4.11 months or on at least four occasions in the  
4.12 last three years. The housing must provide  
4.13 or coordinate with linkages to services  
4.14 necessary for residents to maintain housing  
4.15 stability and maximize opportunities for  
4.16 education and employment.

4.17 Preference among comparable proposals  
4.18 must be given to proposals that (1) colocate  
4.19 housing and services accessible to the  
4.20 general public as well as to the residents, and  
4.21 (2) provide housing affordable to a range of  
4.22 household income levels.

4.23 Sec. 7. **REPORTING REQUIRED.**

4.24 (a) The commissioner of finance must collect the following data annually from each  
4.25 cabinet-level state agency, with the exception of the Metropolitan Council, and must report  
4.26 those data, by agency, by the second week of each legislative session, beginning in 2011,  
4.27 to the chairs and ranking minority members of each of the house of representatives and  
4.28 senate committees having responsibility for veterans policy and finance issues:

4.29 (1) the total number of persons employed in full-time positions by the state agency;

4.30 (2) the total number of employees identified in clause (1) who are veterans;

4.31 (3) the total number of vacant full-time positions in the agency filled by hiring or  
4.32 appointment during the designated fiscal year;

4.33 (4) the total number of applications received for the positions identified in clause (3);

4.34 (5) the total number of applications identified in clause (4) for which veterans  
4.35 preference was elected by the applicant;

5.1 (6) the total number of applications identified in clause (5) for which the veteran  
5.2 applicant was judged by the hiring authority as meeting minimum requirements for the  
5.3 open positions of employment;

5.4 (7) the total number of veteran applicants identified in clause (6) who were  
5.5 interviewed by the hiring authority for the open positions of employment in the agency;

5.6 (8) the total number of veteran applicants identified in clause (7) who were selected  
5.7 for and offered employment within the open positions of employment in the agency;

5.8 (9) the total number of veteran applicants identified in clause (8) who were hired  
5.9 into the open positions of employment in the agency;

5.10 (10) the total number of veteran applicants identified in clause (6) who were sent a  
5.11 rejection letter, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 43A.11, subdivision 9; and

5.12 (11) any other data or information deemed important by the commissioner of  
5.13 administration and reflecting on the efforts of the subject agency to recruit and hire  
5.14 veterans.

5.15 (b) The data must reflect one full fiscal year or one full calendar year, as determined  
5.16 by the commissioner of finance.

5.17 (c) The term "veteran" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 197.447.

5.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009.