

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 374**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/22/2019	138	Introduction and first reading Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections
01/28/2019	197	Withdrawn and re-referred to Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
02/21/2019	491	Author added Lang

- 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.