SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 568

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ, Pha, Xiong and Maye Quade)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/23/2025	162	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
02/03/2025	269	Author added Pha
03/20/2025	940	Author added Xiong
04/03/2025	1342	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to State and Local Government
04/10/2025	1734	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to Finance
		Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, referred to Rules and Administration
	1787	Author added Maye Quade
	6285	Joint rule 3.02, returned to State and Local Government

A bill for an act

relating to veterans; expanding the definition of the term veteran; establishing an advisory task force; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 197.447.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 197.447, is amended to read:

197.447 VETERAN, DEFINED.

The word "veteran" as used in Minnesota Statutes, except in sections 136F.28, 196.21, and 243.251, means:

(1) a citizen of the United States or a resident alien who has been separated under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty, or who has met the minimum active duty requirement as defined by Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, section 3.12a, or who has active military service certified under section 401, Public Law 95-202. The active military service must be certified by the United States secretary of defense as active military service and a discharge under honorable conditions must be issued by the secretary; or

(2) a person who resides in this state and who:

(i) was naturalized as provided in section 2(1) of the federal Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, Public Law 106-207; or

(ii) is a person who the commissioner of veterans affairs determines served honorably with a special guerrilla unit or with irregular forces that operated from a base in Laos in support of the armed forces of the United States at any time during the period beginning

February 28, 1961, and ending May 14, 1975, and is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

Sec. 2. **ADVISORY TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED.**

The commissioner of veterans affairs must establish an advisory task force of no more than seven individuals who are knowledgeable about the Secret War of Laos, including veterans of secret guerilla units or irregular forces that operated from a base in Laos in support of the armed forces of the United States, academics, and community members. The task force must advise the commissioner as to which criteria should be used to determine if an individual qualifies as a veteran under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.447, clause (2).