

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3603

(SENATE AUTHORS: RASMUSSEN, Lang, Howe, Duckworth and Maye Quade)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/17/2026	6317	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education Policy
02/19/2026	6345	Authors added Lang; Howe
02/26/2026	6419	Author added Duckworth
03/23/2026		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Author added Maye Quade

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to education; establishing a high school diploma for armed forces veterans;

1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 127A.

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

1.5 Section 1. [127A.135] HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR VETERANS.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner must establish a high school diploma

1.7 for veterans and award a standard high school diploma to a qualifying veteran of the armed

1.8 forces who has not completed high school graduation requirements. The high school diploma

1.9 may be awarded to an armed forces veteran based on knowledge and experience gained

1.10 while in service.

1.11 Subd. 2. Qualifying service; application. (a) The commissioner may award a high

1.12 school diploma to an eligible veteran under subdivision 3 who has not completed high school

1.13 graduation requirements and who meets at least one of the following qualifying service

1.14 criteria:

1.15 (1) served in the Korean Conflict;

1.16 (2) served in the Vietnam War; or

1.17 (3) left a public or nonpublic school located in any state prior to graduation to serve on

1.18 active duty in the United States armed forces.

1.19 (b) A veteran, or a veteran's family posthumously, may apply for the veteran high school

1.20 diploma in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner of education. The

1.21 Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs must work together to assist veterans with

1.22 the application process for obtaining a diploma.

2.1 Subd. 3. Eligible veteran. For purposes of this section, an eligible veteran is a veteran  
2.2 who:

2.3 (1) either: (i) is a current resident of the state of Minnesota; (ii) was previously enrolled  
2.4 in a high school in this state; or (iii) was a resident of the state of Minnesota at the time of  
2.5 death; and

2.6 (2) was honorably discharged from the United States armed forces as verified by the  
2.7 Department of Veterans Affairs.