

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

S.F. No. 4975

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
04/07/2026

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to veterans; authorizing certain former officers of the Public Health Service
1.3 and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to reside in state veterans
1.4 homes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 198.01.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 198.01, is amended to read:

1.7 **198.01 VETERANS HOME; ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS.**

1.8 (a) The Minnesota veterans homes shall provide nursing care and related health and
1.9 social services for veterans and their spouses who meet eligibility and admission requirements
1.10 of the Minnesota veterans homes. The commissioner may not close a veterans home unless
1.11 closure of the home is specifically authorized or required by a law enacted after July 1,
1.12 2015.

1.13 (b) The word "veteran" as used in this section ~~has the meaning provided in~~ includes:

1.14 (1) a person who qualifies as a veteran under section 197.447;

1.15 (2) a person who served on active duty, as defined under United States Code, title 38,
1.16 section 101.21(B), as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, and (i) who was
1.17 separated under honorable conditions after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive
1.18 days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty; or (ii) who has met
1.19 the minimum active duty requirement established in Code of Federal Regulations, title 38,
1.20 section 3.12a; and

1.21 (3) a person who served on active duty, as defined under United States Code, title 38,
1.22 section 101.21(C), as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

- 2.1 Administration and (i) who was separated under honorable conditions after having served
2.2 on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving
2.3 on active duty; or (ii) who has met the minimum active duty requirement established in
2.4 Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, section 3.12a.