

A bill for an act
relating to veterans; broadening eligibility for the bid preference program for
designated veteran-owned small businesses bidding for state contracts for goods
and services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, sections 16C.16,
subdivision 6a; 16C.19.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 16C.16, subdivision 6a, is
amended to read:

Subd. 6a. **Veteran-owned small businesses.** (a) The commissioner shall award up
to a six percent preference, but no less than the percentage awarded to any other group
under this section, in the amount bid on state procurement to certified small businesses
that are majority-owned and operated ~~either:~~

~~(1) by recently separated veterans, who are one or more veterans, as defined in~~
~~section 197.447, who have served in active military service, at any time on or after~~
~~September 11, 2001, and who have been discharged under honorable conditions from~~
~~active service, as indicated by the person's United States Department of Defense form~~
~~DD-214 or by the commissioner of veterans affairs; or,~~

~~(2) by veterans who are veterans as defined in section 197.447, with~~
~~service-connected disabilities, as determined at any time by the United States Department~~
~~of Veterans Affairs.~~

(b) The purpose of this designation is to facilitate the transition of veterans from
military to civilian life, and to help compensate veterans for their sacrifices, including but
not limited to their sacrifice of health and time, to the state and nation during their military
service, as well as to enhance economic development within Minnesota.

~~(c) For purposes of this section and section 16C.19, "service-connected disability" has the meaning given in United States Code, title 38, section 101(16), as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2010, and applies to businesses that apply for state contracts being awarded on or after that date.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 16C.19, is amended to read:

16C.19 ELIGIBILITY; RULES.

(a) A small business wishing to participate in the programs under section 16C.16, subdivisions 4 to 7, must be certified by the commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt by rule standards and procedures for certifying that small businesses, small targeted group businesses, and small businesses located in economically disadvantaged areas are eligible to participate under the requirements of sections 16C.16 to 16C.21. The commissioner shall adopt by rule standards and procedures for hearing appeals and grievances and other rules necessary to carry out the duties set forth in sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

(b) The commissioner may make rules which exclude or limit the participation of nonmanufacturing business, including third-party lessors, brokers, franchises, jobbers, manufacturers' representatives, and others from eligibility under sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

(c) The commissioner may make rules that set time limits and other eligibility limits on business participation in programs under sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), for purposes of sections 16C.16 to 16C.21, a veteran-owned small business ~~or service-disabled veteran-owned small business~~, the principal place of business of which is in Minnesota, is certified if:

~~(1)~~ it has been verified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being either a veteran-owned small business or a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, in accordance with Public Law 109-461 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, part 74, ~~and a majority of the owners of the business are recently separated veterans as provided in section 16C.16, subdivision 6a; or~~

~~(2) it has been verified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being a service-disabled veteran-owned small business in accordance with Public Law 109-461 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, part 74.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2010, and applies to businesses that apply for state contracts being awarded on or after that date.