

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 485

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Table with columns: DATE, D-PG, OFFICIAL STATUS. Rows include dates from 02/01/2021 to 04/06/2021 and corresponding bill numbers and descriptions.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to veterans and military affairs; appropriating money; amending Minnesota
1.3 Statutes 2020, sections 10.578; 15.057; 190.07; 197.791, subdivisions 4, 5, 5a, 5b;
1.4 198.006; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 16B; 196.

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

ARTICLE 1

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS

1.8 Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

1.9 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies
1.10 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,
1.11 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.
1.12 The figures "2022" and "2023" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under
1.13 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively.
1.14 "The first year" is fiscal year 2022. "The second year" is fiscal year 2023. "The biennium"
1.15 is fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

APPROPRIATIONS

Available for the Year

Ending June 30

2022

2023

1.20 Sec. 2. MILITARY AFFAIRS

1.21 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 24,393,000 \$ 24,589,000

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following
 2.3 subdivisions.

2.4 Subd. 2. **Maintenance of Training Facilities** 9,772,000 9,842,000

2.5 Subd. 3. **General Support** 3,507,000 3,633,000

2.6 Subd. 4. **Enlistment Incentives** 11,114,000 11,114,000

2.7 The appropriations in this subdivision are
 2.8 available until June 30, 2025, except that any
 2.9 unspent amounts allocated to a program
 2.10 otherwise supported by this appropriation are
 2.11 canceled to the general fund upon receipt of
 2.12 federal funds in the same amount to support
 2.13 administration of that program.

2.14 If the amount for fiscal year 2022 is
 2.15 insufficient, the amount for 2023 is available
 2.16 in fiscal year 2022.

2.17 **Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

2.18 Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation** \$ 79,851,000 \$ 79,389,000

2.19 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.20 purpose are specified in the following
 2.21 subdivisions.

2.22 Subd. 2. **Veterans Programs and Services** 19,218,000 19,134,000

2.23 The base for this appropriation in fiscal year
 2.24 2024 and each year thereafter is \$18,236,000.

2.25 (a) **Veterans Service Organizations.**
 2.26 \$353,000 each year is for grants to the
 2.27 following congressionally chartered veterans
 2.28 service organizations as designated by the
 2.29 commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,
 2.30 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the
 2.31 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
 2.32 Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and
 2.33 Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding

3.1 must be allocated in direct proportion to the
3.2 funding currently being provided by the
3.3 commissioner to these organizations.

3.4 **(b) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
3.5 **Veterans. \$750,000 each year is for a grant**
3.6 **to the Minnesota Assistance Council for**
3.7 **Veterans to provide assistance throughout**
3.8 **Minnesota to veterans and their families who**
3.9 **are homeless or in danger of homelessness,**
3.10 **including assistance with the following:**

3.11 **(1) utilities;**
3.12 **(2) employment; and**
3.13 **(3) legal issues.**

3.14 **The assistance authorized under this paragraph**
3.15 **must be made only to veterans who have**
3.16 **resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to**
3.17 **application for assistance and according to**
3.18 **other guidelines established by the**
3.19 **commissioner. In order to avoid duplication**
3.20 **of services, the commissioner must ensure that**
3.21 **this assistance is coordinated with all other**
3.22 **available programs for veterans.**

3.23 **(c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for**
3.24 **compensation for honor guards at the funerals**
3.25 **of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section**
3.26 **197.231.**

3.27 **(d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is**
3.28 **for the costs of administering the Minnesota**
3.29 **GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,**
3.30 **on-the-job training, and apprenticeship**
3.31 **program under Minnesota Statutes, section**
3.32 **197.791.**

4.1 (e) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
4.2 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
4.3 surviving family members of deceased
4.4 veterans.

4.5 (f) **County Veterans Service Office.**
4.6 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the
4.7 County Veterans Service Office grant program
4.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

4.9 (g) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
4.10 \$750,000 each year is for an initiative to
4.11 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
4.12 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
4.13 housing vouchers and other services to
4.14 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
4.15 former service members in Minnesota. The
4.16 commissioner may contract for program
4.17 administration and may establish a vacancy
4.18 reserve fund. This is a onetime appropriation.

4.19 (h) **9/11 Task Force.** \$112,000 the first year
4.20 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
4.21 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
4.22 task force must collect, memorialize, and
4.23 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the
4.24 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their
4.25 dependents. The task force must host a
4.26 remembrance program in September 2021.
4.27 This is a onetime appropriation.

4.28 (i) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a
4.29 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
4.30 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
4.31 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
4.32 therapy, transportation, and activities
4.33 customized for veterans. This is a onetime
4.34 appropriation.

5.1 Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care 60,633,000 60,255,000

5.2 (a) Transfers. \$59,633,000 the first year and

5.3 \$59,605,000 the second year may be

5.4 transferred to a veterans homes special

5.5 revenue account in the special revenue fund

5.6 in the same manner as other receipts are

5.7 deposited according to Minnesota Statutes,

5.8 section 198.34, and are appropriated to the

5.9 commissioner of veterans affairs for the

5.10 operation of veterans homes facilities and

5.11 programs. The base for this transfer in fiscal

5.12 year 2024 and each year thereafter is

5.13 \$58,736,000.

5.14 (b) Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiative.

5.15 \$1,000,000 the first year and \$650,000 the

5.16 second year are to address the problem of

5.17 death by suicide among veterans in Minnesota.

5.18 The commissioner of veterans affairs may use

5.19 funds for personnel, training, research,

5.20 marketing, and professional or technical

5.21 contracts. The base for this appropriation in

5.22 fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is

5.23 \$550,000.

ARTICLE 2

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS POLICY

5.24

5.25

5.26 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 10.578, is amended to read:

5.27 **10.578 VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY.**

5.28 The first Saturday of every October is designated Veterans Suicide Prevention and

5.29 Awareness Day. Each year, the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring this observance.

5.30 Each year in conjunction with this observance, the commissioner of veterans affairs shall

5.31 coordinate activities that raise awareness of, and promote the prevention of, veteran suicides.

6.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 15.057, is amended to read:

6.2 **15.057 PUBLICITY REPRESENTATIVES.**

6.3 No state department, bureau, or division, whether the same operates on funds appropriated
 6.4 or receipts or fees of any nature whatsoever, except the Department of Veterans Affairs,
 6.5 the Department of Transportation, the Department of Employment and Economic
 6.6 Development, the Game and Fish Division, State Agricultural Society, and Explore Minnesota
 6.7 Tourism shall use any of such funds for the payment of the salary or expenses of a publicity
 6.8 representative. The head of any such department, bureau, or division shall be personally
 6.9 liable for funds used contrary to this provision. This section shall not be construed, however,
 6.10 as preventing any such department, bureau, or division from sending out any bulletins or
 6.11 other publicity required by any state law or necessary for the satisfactory conduct of the
 6.12 business for which such department, bureau, or division was created.

6.13 Sec. 3. **[16B.276] CAPITOL FLAG PROGRAM.**

6.14 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) The terms used in this section have the meanings given
 6.15 them.

6.16 (b) "Active service" has the meaning given in section 190.05, subdivision 5.

6.17 (c) "Eligible family member" means a surviving spouse, parent or legal guardian, child,
 6.18 or sibling of (1) a public safety officer killed in the line of duty, or (2) a person who has
 6.19 died while serving honorably in active service in the United States armed forces. For purposes
 6.20 of this section, an eligibility relationship may be established by birth or adoption.

6.21 (d) "Killed in the line of duty" has the meaning given in section 299A.41, subdivision
 6.22 3.

6.23 (e) "Public safety officer" has the meaning given in section 299A.41, subdivision 4.

6.24 Subd. 2. Establishment. A Capitol flag program is established. The purpose of the
 6.25 program is to make a Minnesota state flag and an American flag that were flown over the
 6.26 Minnesota State Capitol available to the family members of a public safety officer killed
 6.27 in the line of duty or a member of the United States armed forces who died while in active
 6.28 service. In addition to appropriations provided by law, the commissioner of management
 6.29 and budget may receive gifts to support the program as authorized in sections 16A.013 to
 6.30 16A.016. The program established by this section is required only to the extent that sufficient
 6.31 funds are available through appropriations or gifts to support its operations.

7.1 Subd. 3. **Submission of request; presentation.** (a) A flag request may only be made
7.2 by a legislator or state constitutional officer on behalf of an eligible family member, after
7.3 verification of the family member's eligibility under the procedures adopted under subdivision
7.4 4. The request must be made to the commissioner of administration, and must indicate the
7.5 type of flag requested, a certification that the family member's eligibility has been verified,
7.6 special requests for the date the flag is requested to be flown over the Capitol, and the
7.7 method of presentment. The commissioner may adopt a form to be used for this purpose.
7.8 With at least 30 days' notice, the commissioner must honor a request that a flag be flown
7.9 on a specific commemorative date.

7.10 (b) Upon receipt of a request, the commissioner shall deliver the requested flags to the
7.11 requesting legislator or constitutional officer for coordination of a later presentment
7.12 ceremony. If relevant information is made available, the commissioner shall provide a
7.13 certificate memorializing the details of the occasion and the date the flag was flown with
7.14 each flag presented.

7.15 Subd. 4. **Verification of eligibility.** The house of representatives, the senate, and each
7.16 constitutional officer must adopt procedures for the administration of flag requests received
7.17 from eligible family members, including a procedure for verification of a family member's
7.18 eligibility to receive a flag.

7.19 Subd. 5. **Eligibility; fees.** (a) For deaths that occur on or after August 1, 2021, the family
7.20 of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty or service member of the United States
7.21 armed forces who died in active service is entitled to receive one United States flag and one
7.22 Minnesota state flag free of charge under this section. If multiple flags of the same type are
7.23 requested to be flown in honor of the same decedent, the commissioner may charge a
7.24 reasonable fee that does not exceed the actual cost of flying each flag and preparing a
7.25 certificate memorializing the occasion.

7.26 (b) For deaths that occurred before August 1, 2021, the family of a public safety officer
7.27 killed in the line of duty or service member of the United States armed forces who died in
7.28 active service may receive a Minnesota state flag and a United States flag for a fee, unless
7.29 there are donated, nonstate funds available to provide a flag without a fee. If payment of a
7.30 fee is required under this paragraph, the commissioner may charge an eligible family an
7.31 amount that does not exceed the actual cost of flying each flag and preparing a certificate
7.32 memorializing the occasion.

7.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

8.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 190.07, is amended to read:

8.2 **190.07 APPOINTMENT; QUALIFICATIONS; RANK; TERM; VACANCY.**

8.3 **Subdivision 1. Qualifications.** There shall be an adjutant general of the state who shall
 8.4 be appointed by the governor within 120 days of a vacancy of the position. The adjutant
 8.5 general shall be a staff officer, who at the time of appointment shall be a commissioned
 8.6 officer of the National Guard ~~of this state, with not less than ten years military service in~~
 8.7 ~~the National Guard of this state or the armed forces of the United States, at least three of~~
 8.8 ~~which shall have been commissioned~~ and who shall have reached, at a minimum, the grade
 8.9 ~~of a field officer~~ rank of colonel (O-6).

8.10 **Subd. 2. Rank.** The adjutant general shall be promoted, if necessary, directly to and
 8.11 shall hold at least the rank of major general and may be promoted to and including the
 8.12 ~~highest rank authorized under federal law. However, the adjutant general may not be~~
 8.13 ~~promoted to the rank of major general without having at least 20 years service in the~~
 8.14 ~~Minnesota National Guard, at least one of which has been in the rank of brigadier general.~~
 8.15 If not already a major general, the adjutant general's promotion is effective beginning on
 8.16 the date the governor appoints the adjutant general. At the time of appointment and in
 8.17 accordance with the authorities governing federal recognition of officers, the adjutant general
 8.18 is authorized to wear the rank of major general.

8.19 **Subd. 3. Term.** The term of the adjutant general is for a single term of seven years from
 8.20 the date of appointment. ~~Section 15.06, subdivisions 3, 4, and 5, governs filling of vacancies~~
 8.21 ~~in the Office of Adjutant General.~~ The adjutant general shall not be removed from office
 8.22 during a term except upon withdrawal of federal recognition or as otherwise provided by
 8.23 the military laws of this state.

8.24 **Subd. 4. Vacancy; acting or temporary adjutant general.** In the event of a vacancy
 8.25 of the adjutant general, the governor may appoint a person qualified under subdivision 1 as
 8.26 an acting adjutant general. If the governor does not appoint an acting adjutant general, the
 8.27 deputy adjutant general as defined in section 190.09, subdivision 1, shall become temporary
 8.28 adjutant general without further official action. Upon taking office, the acting or temporary
 8.29 adjutant general shall have all the powers and emoluments and perform all the duties of the
 8.30 office of adjutant general until a permanent adjutant general is appointed.

8.31 **Sec. 5. [196.081] VETERANS STABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE; DATA.**

8.32 **(a) The commissioner may establish a veterans stable housing initiative. If the**
 8.33 **commissioner establishes a veterans stable housing initiative under this section, the**

9.1 commissioner must provide resources and support to assist veterans experiencing
 9.2 homelessness in obtaining or maintaining stable housing.

9.3 (b) Data on individuals maintained by the commissioner in the Homeless Veteran Registry
 9.4 for purposes of the veterans stable housing initiative is private data on individuals as defined
 9.5 in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and must not be disclosed or shared except for coordinating
 9.6 homelessness prevention efforts with:

9.7 (1) members of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

9.8 (2) Homeless Veteran Registry partners to address a veteran's episode of homelessness
 9.9 or maintain a veteran's housing plan through Department of Veterans Affairs funded
 9.10 programs.

9.11 (c) For purposes of this section, "homelessness" means that a veteran lacks a fixed,
 9.12 nighttime residence.

9.13 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.791, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

9.14 Subd. 4. **Eligibility.** (a) A person is eligible for educational assistance under ~~subdivisions~~
 9.15 subdivision 5 and 5a if:

9.16 (1) the person is:

9.17 (i) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United
 9.18 States armed forces at any time;

9.19 (ii) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
 9.20 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
 9.21 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
 9.22 11, 2001;

9.23 (iii) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who
 9.24 has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is
 9.25 eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33,
 9.26 as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

9.27 (iv) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who
 9.28 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans
 9.29 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits
 9.30 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,
 9.31 chapter 35, as amended; and

10.1 (2) the person receiving the educational assistance is a Minnesota resident, as defined
10.2 in section 136A.101, subdivision 8; and

10.3 (3) the person receiving the educational assistance:

10.4 (i) is an undergraduate or graduate student at an eligible institution;

10.5 (ii) is maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution for students
10.6 participating in federal Title IV programs;

10.7 (iii) is enrolled in an education program leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree at
10.8 an eligible institution;

10.9 (iv) has applied for educational assistance under this section prior to the end of the
10.10 academic term for which the assistance is being requested;

10.11 (v) is in compliance with child support payment requirements under section 136A.121,
10.12 subdivision 2, clause (5); and

10.13 (vi) has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

10.14 (b) A person's eligibility terminates when the person becomes eligible for benefits under
10.15 section 135A.52.

10.16 (c) To determine eligibility, the commissioner may require official documentation,
10.17 including the person's federal form DD-214 or other official military discharge papers;
10.18 correspondence from the United States Veterans Administration; birth certificate; marriage
10.19 certificate; proof of enrollment at an eligible institution; signed affidavits; proof of residency;
10.20 proof of identity; or any other official documentation the commissioner considers necessary
10.21 to determine eligibility.

10.22 (d) The commissioner may deny eligibility or terminate benefits under this section to
10.23 any person who has not provided sufficient documentation to determine eligibility for the
10.24 program. An applicant may appeal the commissioner's eligibility determination or termination
10.25 of benefits in writing to the commissioner at any time. The commissioner must rule on any
10.26 application or appeal within 30 days of receipt of all documentation that the commissioner
10.27 requires. The decision of the commissioner regarding an appeal is final. However, an
10.28 applicant whose appeal of an eligibility determination has been rejected by the commissioner
10.29 may submit an additional appeal of that determination in writing to the commissioner at
10.30 any time that the applicant is able to provide substantively significant additional information
10.31 regarding the applicant's eligibility for the program. An approval of an applicant's eligibility
10.32 by the commissioner following an appeal by the applicant is not retroactively effective for
10.33 more than one year or the semester of the person's original application, whichever is later.

11.1 (e) Upon receiving an application with insufficient documentation to determine eligibility,
 11.2 the commissioner must notify the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the application that
 11.3 the application is being suspended pending receipt by the commissioner of sufficient
 11.4 documentation from the applicant to determine eligibility.

11.5 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.791, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

11.6 Subd. 5. **Educational assistance amount.** (a) On approval by the commissioner of
 11.7 eligibility for the program, the applicant shall be awarded, on a funds-available basis, the
 11.8 educational assistance under the program for use at any time according to program rules at
 11.9 any eligible institution.

11.10 (b) The amount of educational assistance in any semester or term for an eligible person
 11.11 must be determined by subtracting from the eligible person's cost of attendance the amount
 11.12 the person received or was eligible to receive in that semester or term from:

11.13 (1) the federal Pell Grant;

11.14 (2) the state grant program under section 136A.121; and

11.15 (3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the
 11.16 Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational
 11.17 rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as
 11.18 a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans
 11.19 ~~Administration and payments made under the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program~~
 11.20 ~~(VRAP)~~ Affairs.

11.21 (c) The amount of educational assistance for any eligible person who is a full-time
 11.22 student must not exceed the following:

11.23 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and

11.24 (2) \$10,000 in a lifetime.

11.25 (d) For a part-time student, the amount of educational assistance must not exceed \$500
 11.26 per semester or term of enrollment. For the purpose of this paragraph, a part-time
 11.27 undergraduate student is a student taking fewer than 12 credits or the equivalent for a
 11.28 semester or term of enrollment and a part-time graduate student is a student considered part
 11.29 time by the eligible institution the graduate student is attending. The minimum award for
 11.30 undergraduate and graduate students is \$50 per term.

12.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.791, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

12.2 Subd. 5a. **Apprenticeship and on-the-job training.** (a) The commissioner, in
 12.3 consultation with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor
 12.4 and industry, shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program
 12.5 to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible
 12.6 persons, as provided in this subdivision.

12.7 (b) An "eligible employer" means an employer operating a qualifying apprenticeship or
 12.8 on-the-job training program that has been approved by the commissioner.

12.9 ~~(c) A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this~~
 12.10 ~~subdivision if the person meets the criteria established under subdivision 4, paragraph (a).~~
 12.11 ~~The commissioner may determine eligibility as provided in subdivision 4, paragraph (c),~~
 12.12 ~~and may deny or terminate benefits as prescribed under subdivision 4, paragraphs (d) and~~
 12.13 ~~(e). The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this~~
 12.14 ~~subdivision must not exceed the following:~~

12.15 (c) A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this
 12.16 subdivision if the person is:

12.17 (i) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United
 12.18 States armed forces at any time;

12.19 (ii) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
 12.20 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
 12.21 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
 12.22 11, 2001;

12.23 (iii) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who
 12.24 has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is
 12.25 eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33,
 12.26 as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

12.27 (iv) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who
 12.28 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans
 12.29 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits
 12.30 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,
 12.31 chapter 35.

12.32 (d) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this
 12.33 subdivision must not exceed the following:

13.1 (1) \$3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;

13.2 (2) \$3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;

13.3 (3) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and
13.4 completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under
13.5 this subdivision; and

13.6 (4) \$1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person
13.7 receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for
13.8 at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

13.9 (e) No more than \$5,000 in aggregate benefits under this ~~paragraph~~ subdivision may be
13.10 paid to or on behalf of an individual in one fiscal year; ~~and not more than \$10,000 in~~
13.11 ~~aggregate benefits under this paragraph may be paid to or on behalf of an individual over~~
13.12 ~~any period of time.~~

13.13 (f) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's
13.14 aggregate benefits under this subdivision, subdivisions 5, and 5b, must not exceed \$10,000
13.15 in the eligible person's lifetime.

13.16 ~~(d)~~ (g) Assistance for apprenticeship expenses and on-the-job training is available for
13.17 qualifying programs, which must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

13.18 (1) the training must be with an eligible employer;

13.19 (2) the training must be documented and reported;

13.20 (3) the training must reasonably be expected to lead to an entry-level position; and

13.21 (4) the position must require at least six months of training to become fully trained.

13.22 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.791, subdivision 5b, is amended to read:

13.23 Subd. 5b. **Additional professional or educational benefits.** (a) The commissioner shall
13.24 develop and implement a program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program
13.25 to pay additional benefit amounts to eligible persons as provided under this subdivision.

13.26 ~~(b) A person is eligible for additional benefits under this subdivision if the person meets~~
13.27 ~~the criteria established under subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1). The commissioner~~
13.28 ~~may determine eligibility as provided in subdivision 4, paragraph (c), and may deny or~~
13.29 ~~terminate benefits as prescribed under subdivision 4, paragraphs (d) and (e). The amount~~
13.30 ~~of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this subdivision must not~~
13.31 ~~exceed the following amounts:~~

14.1 (b) A person is eligible for additional benefits under this subdivision if the person is:

14.2 (i) a veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United
14.3 States armed forces at any time;

14.4 (ii) a nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively
14.5 as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of
14.6 the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September
14.7 11, 2001;

14.8 (iii) the surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who
14.9 has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is
14.10 eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33,
14.11 as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

14.12 (iv) the spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who
14.13 has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans
14.14 Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits
14.15 under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38,
14.16 chapter 35.

14.17 (c) The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this
14.18 subdivision must not exceed the following amounts:

14.19 (1) \$3,000 per state fiscal year; and

14.20 (2) \$10,000 in a lifetime.

14.21 (d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's
14.22 aggregate benefits under this subdivision, subdivisions 5, and 5a, must not exceed \$10,000
14.23 in the eligible person's lifetime.

14.24 ~~(e)~~ (e) A person eligible under this subdivision may use the benefit amounts for the
14.25 following purposes:

14.26 (1) licensing or certification tests, the successful completion of which demonstrates an
14.27 individual's possession of the knowledge or skill required to enter into, maintain, or advance
14.28 in employment in a predetermined and identified vocation or profession, provided that the
14.29 tests and the licensing or credentialing organizations or entities that offer the tests are
14.30 approved by the commissioner;

14.31 (2) tests for admission to institutions of higher learning or graduate schools;

15.1 (3) national tests providing an opportunity for course credit at institutions of higher
15.2 learning;

15.3 (4) a preparatory course for a test that is required or used for admission to an institution
15.4 of higher education or a graduate program; and

15.5 (5) any fee associated with the pursuit of a professional or educational objective specified
15.6 in clauses (1) to (4).

15.7 ~~(d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5, the eligible person's~~
15.8 ~~aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivision 5 must not exceed \$10,000 in the~~
15.9 ~~eligible person's lifetime.~~

15.10 ~~(e) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5a, the eligible person's~~
15.11 ~~aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivision 5a must not exceed \$10,000 in~~
15.12 ~~the eligible person's lifetime.~~

15.13 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 198.006, is amended to read:

15.14 **198.006 SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS.**

15.15 (a) The commissioner shall ~~shall~~ must work with federal, state, local, and private agencies to
15.16 develop alternative institutional and noninstitutional care programs for veterans to supplement
15.17 the mission of the homes. Veterans shall be afforded the least restrictive, most appropriate
15.18 level of care available.

15.19 (b) The commissioner may work with federal, state, local, and private entities to make
15.20 available appropriate dental services for veterans homes residents. The commissioner may
15.21 engage with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to support the dental benefits
15.22 program authorized under this paragraph.

15.23 (c) The commissioner may provide adult day care center programs that offer therapeutic
15.24 and rehabilitation health care services to veterans and support services for caregivers of
15.25 veterans. If the commissioner provides adult day care center programs, the commissioner
15.26 may collect fees from program participants. The commissioner is authorized to apply for
15.27 and accept federal funding for purposes of this paragraph.

15.28 Sec. 11. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

15.29 The revisor of statutes must renumber the provisions of Minnesota Statutes listed in
15.30 column A to the references listed in column B. The revisor must also make necessary

16.1 cross-reference changes in Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules consistent with the
16.2 renumbering.

16.3	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
16.4	<u>197.791, subdivision 5a</u>	<u>197.791, subdivision 6</u>
16.5	<u>197.791, subdivision 5b</u>	<u>197.791, subdivision 7</u>
16.6	<u>197.791, subdivision 6</u>	<u>197.791, subdivision 8</u>