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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1194

02/01/2023 Authored by Bliss and Newton
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to military veterans; appropriating money for veteran retreats.

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

1.4 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; CAMP BLISS.

1.5 Subdivision 1. Grant program; eligibility; reimbursement requirements. (a) The
1.6 commissioner of veterans affairs shall issue a grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., for
1.7 expenses related to retreats for eligible veterans and their family members at Camp Bliss
1.8 in Walker.

1.9 (b) The grant recipient may use grant money to:

1.10 (1) provide therapy, transportation, and activities customized for eligible veterans and
1.11 their family members; and

1.12 (2) perform general maintenance of the camp.

1.13 (c) The commissioner must reimburse the grant recipient at least \$850 for each eligible
1.14 veteran or family member who the commissioner verifies attended the camp and received
1.15 services from the grant recipient. The commissioner shall disburse money to the grant
1.16 recipient for up to two visits per year to the camp for each eligible veteran or family member.

1.17 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
1.18 meanings given.

1.19 (b) "Eligible veteran" means a person who is either:

2.1 (1) a former armed forces service member who has a DD-214 or other official document
2.2 from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the honorable service
2.3 of the veteran; or

2.4 (2) a current armed forces member, whether serving in the active or reserve component.

2.5 (c) "Family member" means an eligible veteran's spouse, domestic partner, and children.

2.6 Subd. 3. **Appropriation.** \$150,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$150,000 in fiscal year 2025
2.7 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of veterans affairs for the grant
2.8 described in subdivision 1, paragraph (a). This amount shall be added to the agency's base.