

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

S.F. No. 2439

(SENATE AUTHORS: VANDEVEER)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/14/2012	4411	Introduction and first reading Referred to State Government Innovation and Veterans

A bill for an act  
relating to veterans; expanding eligibility for burial in the Minnesota State  
Veterans Cemetery to include deceased allied Hmong-American or Lao-American  
veterans of the American Secret War in Laos; amending Minnesota Statutes  
2010, section 197.236, subdivision 8.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 197.236, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Eligibility.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), Minnesota state  
veterans cemeteries must be operated solely for the burial of service members who die  
on active duty, eligible veterans, and their spouses and dependent children, as defined in  
United States Code, title 38, section 101, paragraph (2).

(b) To the extent permitted by United States law or federal regulation, eligibility for  
burial in any Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery shall also include any deceased person  
determined by the Minnesota commissioner of veterans affairs, or the commissioner's  
designee, to be an allied Hmong-American or Lao-American veteran, or the spouse or  
dependent of an allied Hmong-American or Lao-American veteran, of the American  
Secret War in Laos.

(c) The commissioner is authorized to designate responsibility for confirming an  
applicant's status as an allied Hmong-American or Lao-American veteran of the American  
Secret War in Laos to the chairperson of the Special Guerilla Unit Veterans & Families  
Development of USA, Inc. The form SGU-DD214, signed by the current or former  
chairperson of the association and issued to an applicant shall confirm the applicant's  
status as an allied Hmong-American or Lao-American veteran of the American Secret  
War in Laos.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision:

(1) "allied Hmong-American or Lao-American veteran" means a person who is an American citizen of Hmong or Lao ethnicity who was recruited, trained, directed, supported, and paid by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or other military, paramilitary or nonmilitary department, agency, or unit of the United States government at any time during the period of the Vietnam War, as an allied soldier or other paramilitary agent assigned as a member of the CIA's Hmong Special Guerilla Unit for the purpose of assisting the United States armed forces in any combat role or combat support role during the Vietnam War, as verified in any reasonable manner as evidenced by a written policy by the Minnesota commissioner of veterans affairs or the commissioner's designee; and

(2) "period of the Vietnam War" means July 1, 1961, to April 30, 1975.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2012.

Sec. 2. **PURPOSE STATEMENT.**

The purpose of section 1 is to recognize and honor this state and nation's allied Hmong-American and Lao-American veterans of America's Secret War in Laos, in which these Hmong-American and Lao-American veterans fought so valiantly and sacrificed so greatly on behalf of members of the United States armed forces who themselves were simultaneously engaged in this nation's war in Vietnam, by sharing with them the honor and solace of the special eternal resting place in Minnesota's State Veterans Cemetery.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2012.