

133.21	ARTICLE 5		
133.22	VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS		
133.23	Section 1. <u>APPROPRIATIONS.</u>		
133.24	The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are added to or, if shown in		
133.25	<u>parentheses, subtracted from the appropriations in Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter</u>		
133.26	<u>12, article 1, to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations</u>		
133.27	<u>are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years</u>		
133.28	<u>indicated for each purpose. The figures "2022" and "2023" used in this article mean that</u>		
133.29	<u>the addition to or subtraction from the appropriation listed under them is available for the</u>		
133.30	<u>fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively. "The first year" is the fiscal</u>		
134.1	<u>year ending June 30, 2022. "The second year" is the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.</u>		
134.2	<u>Supplemental appropriations and reductions to appropriations for the fiscal year ending</u>		
134.3	<u>June 30, 2022, are effective the day following final enactment.</u>		
134.4	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>		
134.5	<u>Available for the Year</u>		
134.6	<u>Ending June 30</u>		
134.7	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
134.8	Sec. 2. <u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>		
134.9	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 2,865,000</u>
134.10	<u>The base is increased \$3,242,000 in fiscal year</u>		
134.11	<u>2024 and each year thereafter.</u>		
134.12	<u>The amounts that may be spent for each</u>		
134.13	<u>purpose are specified in the following</u>		
134.14	<u>subdivisions.</u>		
134.15	<u>Subd. 2. General Support</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>865,000</u>
134.16	<u>(a) Holistic Health and Fitness Program.</u>		
134.17	<u>\$765,000 in fiscal year 2023 is for</u>		
134.18	<u>administrative and payroll costs to create and</u>		
134.19	<u>operate Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F)</u>		
134.20	<u>initiatives across the Minnesota Army National</u>		
134.21	<u>Guard. The base for this program is \$742,000</u>		
134.22	<u>in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter.</u>		

2.23	ARTICLE 1		
2.24	STATE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS		
3.24	Sec. 4. <u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>

134.23 (b) USS Minneapolis-St. Paul
134.24 Commissioning. \$100,000 in fiscal year 2023
134.25 is for a grant to the Minnesota Navy League
134.26 to support activities related to the
134.27 commissioning of the USS Minneapolis-St.
134.28 Paul. This is a onetime appropriation.

134.29 Subd. 3. Enlistment Incentives -0- 2,000,000

134.30 \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated
134.31 from the general fund to the adjutant general
134.32 of military affairs for the purpose of providing
134.33 enlistment incentives to attract highly qualified
134.34 candidates for enlistment in the Minnesota
135.1 National Guard. The base for this
135.2 appropriation is \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2024
135.3 and each year thereafter.

3.25 \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is for
3.26 enlistment incentives. The base for this
3.27 appropriation is increased by \$1,000,000 in
3.28 fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.

135.4 Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS

3.29 Sec. 5. VETERANS AFFAIRS \$ -0- \$ 16,554,000

135.5 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 500,000 \$ 40,514,000

135.6 The base is increased \$10,809,000 in fiscal
135.7 year 2024 and \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

135.8 The amounts that may be spent for each
135.9 purpose are specified in the following
135.10 subdivisions.

135.11 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services 500,000 40,514,000

135.12 (a) Base Adjustment. The base is increased
135.13 \$10,809,000 in fiscal year 2024 and
135.14 \$7,491,000 in fiscal year 2025.

135.15 (b) Veterans Bonus Program. \$24,880,000
135.16 in fiscal year 2023 is for service bonuses to
135.17 Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families
135.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This
135.19 is a onetime appropriation.

135.20 (c) Veterans Service Organizations Grant
135.21 Program. \$147,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
135.22 each year thereafter is for grants to

135.23 congressionally chartered veterans service
135.24 organizations meeting eligibility requirements
135.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.61,
135.26 subdivision 3, as designated by the
135.27 commissioner.

135.28 **(d) County Veterans Service Office Grant**
135.29 **Program.** \$450,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
135.30 each year thereafter is for funding the County
135.31 Veterans Service Office grant program under
135.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

136.1 **(e) Fisher House.** \$500,000 in fiscal year
136.2 2023 is for the purpose of supporting the
136.3 creation of a new Fisher House near the Fargo
136.4 Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center
136.5 campus. The facility will provide temporary
136.6 accommodations at no charge to families and
136.7 caregivers of veterans receiving care at the
136.8 Fargo VA Health Care System. This is a
136.9 onetime appropriation and is available until
136.10 the project is completed or abandoned, subject
136.11 to Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.642.

136.12 **(f) Redwood Falls State Veterans Cemetery.**
136.13 \$830,000 in fiscal year 2023 and each year
136.14 thereafter is for operations of the state's
136.15 veterans cemeteries, including operations in
136.16 Redwood County.

136.17 **(g) Minnesota Assistance Council for**
136.18 **Veterans.** \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is
136.19 for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance
136.20 Council for Veterans to provide assistance
136.21 throughout Minnesota to veterans and former
136.22 service members and their families who are
136.23 homeless or in danger of homelessness,
136.24 including assistance with the following:

136.25 (1) supportive services to maintain housing;
136.26 (2) employment;
136.27 (3) legal issues;
136.28 (4) housing and housing-related costs; and

136.29 (5) transportation.

136.30 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
136.31 must be made only to veterans or former
136.32 service members who have resided in
136.33 Minnesota for 30 days prior to application for
137.1 assistance and according to other guidelines
137.2 established by the commissioner. In order to
137.3 avoid duplication of services, the
137.4 commissioner must ensure that this assistance
137.5 is coordinated with all other available
137.6 programs for veterans.

137.7 This appropriation must be used for the
137.8 establishment and management of permanent
137.9 supportive housing options for homeless
137.10 veterans and former service members.

137.11 The base for this appropriation is \$4,200,000
137.12 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,200,000 each year
137.13 thereafter.

137.14 Any unencumbered balance remaining in this
137.15 subdivision in fiscal year 2023 is available in
137.16 fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

137.17 **(h) Increase Engagement and Outreach**
137.18 **Activities; Support Temporary Housing**
137.19 **Options.** \$1,714,000 in fiscal year 2023 and
137.20 each year thereafter is for temporary
137.21 alternative housing options for homeless
137.22 veterans and former service members and for
137.23 staff to increase outreach activities to end
137.24 homelessness. The commissioner of veterans
137.25 affairs may use funds for personnel, research,
137.26 marketing, and professional or technical
137.27 contracts.

137.28 **(i) Tenancy Supports and Landlord**
137.29 **Engagement.** \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2023
137.30 is for incentives for landlords to assist in
137.31 housing homeless veterans and former service
137.32 members, staff, and funding to remove barriers
137.33 to permanent housing. The commissioner of
137.34 veterans affairs may use funds for financial
138.1 assistance, personnel, research, marketing, and

138.2 professional or technical contracts. The base
138.3 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
138.4 \$975,000.

138.5 **(j) Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention**
138.6 **Initiative.** \$2,125,000 in fiscal year 2023 is
138.7 to address the problem of death by suicide
138.8 among veterans in Minnesota. The
138.9 commissioner of veterans affairs may use
138.10 funds for personnel, training, research,
138.11 marketing, and professional or technical
138.12 contracts. Of this amount, the commissioner
138.13 may use up to:

138.14 (1) \$400,000 to initiate a veteran connections
138.15 pilot project by issuing a request for proposals
138.16 to identify a community-based, mobile, mental
138.17 health, and recovery tool to provide a secure
138.18 environment for veterans to connect with other
138.19 veterans; and

138.20 (2) \$150,000 to develop, in consultation with
138.21 stakeholders, written information on the safe
138.22 storage of firearms and means restriction.
138.23 Stakeholders include organizations
138.24 representing gun sellers and gun owners and
138.25 organizations supporting suicide prevention
138.26 and mental health. The written information
138.27 must include information on Minnesota
138.28 Statutes, section 609.666, and on how to store
138.29 firearms safely, suicide risk factors, suicide
138.30 lifelines, and mental health crisis services. The
138.31 commissioner must provide the written
138.32 information to licensed firearm dealers,
138.33 shooting ranges, chiefs of police, sheriffs,
138.34 county public health departments, and
139.1 instructors on the safe use of firearms to
139.2 distribute to people buying or using firearms.

139.3 The base for this appropriation is \$2,025,000
139.4 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,175,000 in fiscal
139.5 year 2025.

139.6 (k) **Metro Meals on Wheels.** \$468,000 in
139.7 fiscal year 2023 is for a grant to Metro Meals
139.8 on Wheels to provide:

139.9 (1) home-delivered meals to veterans; and

139.10 (2) technical, enrollment, fund-raising,
139.11 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance
139.12 to member programs.

139.13 The base for this appropriation is \$468,000 in
139.14 fiscal year 2024 and \$0 in fiscal year 2025.

139.15 (l) **Veterans Campground Wastewater**
139.16 **System Upgrades.** \$800,000 in fiscal year
139.17 2023 is for one or more grants to the Veterans
139.18 Campground on Big Marine Lake, a 501(c)(3)
139.19 nonprofit organization, to design, engineer,
139.20 permit, and construct wastewater systems on
139.21 campground property to increase the capacity
139.22 of wastewater systems. This is a onetime
139.23 appropriation.

3.30 For transfer to the commissioner of
3.31 administration for the design, construction,
3.32 and equipping of site and building
3.33 improvements at the Bemidji, Montevideo,
3.34 and Preston state veterans home building
4.1 projects. This appropriation may also be
4.2 utilized for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
4.3 Of this amount, \$4,354,000 is for the Bemidji
4.4 state veterans home, \$5,272,000 is for the
4.5 Montevideo state veterans home, and
4.6 \$6,928,000 is for the Preston state veterans
4.7 home. This is a onetime appropriation and is
4.8 available until the project is completed or
4.9 abandoned subject to Minnesota Statutes,
4.10 section 16A.642.

4.21 Sec. 7. **NEW VETERANS HOMES; BEMIDJI, MONTEVIDEO, AND PRESTON;**
4.22 **APPROPRIATION.**

4.23 (a) \$10,329,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the
4.24 commissioner of administration for new veterans homes in Bemidji, Montevideo, and
4.25 Preston. This appropriation is in addition to the appropriation for the same purposes in Laws

SENATE ARTICLE 5, SECTION 64

139.24	Sec. 4. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2,		
139.25	is amended to read:		
139.26	Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services	27,073,000	22,153,000
139.27	(a) CORE Program. \$750,000 each year is		
139.28	for the Counseling and Case Management		
139.29	Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)		
139.30	program.		
139.31	(b) Veterans Service Organizations.		
139.32	\$353,000 each year is for grants to the		
140.1	following congressionally chartered veterans		
140.2	service organizations as designated by the		
140.3	commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,		
140.4	Military Order of the Purple Heart, the		
140.5	American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,		
140.6	Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and		
140.7	Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding		
140.8	must be allocated in direct proportion to the		
140.9	funding currently being provided by the		
140.10	commissioner to these organizations.		

4.26	<u>2018, chapter 214, article 1, section 19, subdivision 3, and is available until the project is completed or abandoned subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.642.</u>
4.27	
4.28	<u>(b) \$2,389,000 of this appropriation is to design, construct, furnish, and equip the veterans home in Bemidji.</u>
4.29	
4.30	<u>(c) \$6,955,000 of this appropriation is to design, construct, furnish, and equip the veterans home in Montevideo.</u>
4.31	
5.1	<u>(d) \$985,000 of this appropriation is to design, construct, furnish, and equip the veterans home in Preston.</u>
5.2	
5.3	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.</u>
72.28	Sec. 64. <u>VETERANS HOMES; REPORT.</u>
72.29	<u>By February 15, 2023, the commissioner of administration must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs on the use of the money appropriated under article 1, section 5, including information on the status of the Bemidji, Montevideo, and Preston state veterans homes building projects. By February 15, 2026, the commissioner of administration must submit a final report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs on how the total appropriations were spent.</u>
72.30	
72.31	
72.32	
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140.11 (c) **Minnesota Assistance Council for**
140.12 **Veterans.** \$750,000 each year is for a grant
140.13 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for
140.14 Veterans to provide assistance throughout
140.15 Minnesota to veterans and their families who
140.16 are homeless or in danger of homelessness,
140.17 including assistance with the following:

140.18 (1) utilities;

140.19 (2) employment; and

140.20 (3) legal issues.

140.21 The assistance authorized under this paragraph
140.22 must be made only to veterans who have
140.23 resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to
140.24 application for assistance and according to
140.25 other guidelines established by the
140.26 commissioner. In order to avoid duplication
140.27 of services, the commissioner must ensure that
140.28 this assistance is coordinated with all other
140.29 available programs for veterans.

140.30 (d) **State's Veterans Cemeteries.** \$6,172,000
140.31 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year
140.32 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
140.33 amounts, \$4,500,000 the first year is to
141.1 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
141.2 in Redwood Falls.

141.3 (e) **Honor Guards.** \$200,000 each year is for
141.4 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
141.5 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
141.6 197.231.

141.7 (f) **Minnesota GI Bill.** \$200,000 each year is
141.8 for the costs of administering the Minnesota
141.9 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
141.10 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
141.11 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
141.12 197.791.

141.13 (g) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
141.14 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
141.15 surviving family members of deceased
141.16 veterans.

141.17 (h) **County Veterans Service Office.**
141.18 \$1,100,000 each year is for funding the
141.19 County Veterans Service Office grant program
141.20 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

141.21 (i) **Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
141.22 \$3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
141.23 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
141.24 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
141.25 housing vouchers and other services to
141.26 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
141.27 former service members in Minnesota. The
141.28 commissioner may contract for program
141.29 administration and may establish a vacancy
141.30 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
141.31 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
141.32 \$1,311,000.

141.33 (j) **Camp Bliss.** \$75,000 each year is for a
141.34 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
142.1 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
142.2 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
142.3 therapy, transportation, and activities
142.4 customized for veterans.

142.5 (k) **Veterans On The Lake.** \$50,000 in the
142.6 first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake
142.7 for expenses related to retreats for veterans,
142.8 including therapy, transportation, and activities
142.9 customized for veterans.

142.10 (l) ~~Veterans~~ **Veteran Resilience Project.**
142.11 \$400,000 each year is for a grant to the
142.12 ~~veterans~~ veteran resilience project. Grant funds
142.13 must be used to make eye movement
142.14 desensitization and reprocessing therapy
142.15 available to veterans and current military
142.16 service members who are suffering from
142.17 posttraumatic stress disorder ~~and~~ or trauma.
142.18 The base for this appropriation in fiscal year
142.19 2024 and each year thereafter is \$200,000.

142.20 The veterans resilience project must report to
142.21 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
142.22 chairs and ranking minority members of the
142.23 legislative committees with jurisdiction over

142.24 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
142.25 15 of each year on the program. The report
142.26 must include an overview of the program's
142.27 budget, a detailed explanation of program
142.28 expenditures, the number of veterans and
142.29 service members served by the program, and
142.30 a list and explanation of the services provided
142.31 to program participants.

142.32 (m) **9/11 Task Force.** \$500,000 the first year
142.33 is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and
142.34 Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The
142.35 task force must collect, memorialize, and
143.1 publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the
143.2 Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their
143.3 dependents. The task force must host a
143.4 remembrance program in September 2021.
143.5 This is a onetime appropriation.

143.6 **ARTICLE 6**

143.7 **VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS POLICY**

143.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 196.081, is amended to read:

143.9 **196.081 VETERANS STABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE; DATA; REPORT.**

143.10 **Subdivision 1. Veterans stable housing initiative.** (a) The commissioner may establish
143.11 a veterans stable housing initiative. If the commissioner establishes a veterans stable housing
143.12 initiative under this section, the commissioner must provide resources and support to assist
143.13 veterans experiencing homelessness in obtaining or maintaining stable housing.

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

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

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

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

143.24 **Subd. 2. Annual report.** Beginning January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the
143.25 commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the

143.26 legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs and housing on the department's
143.27 homelessness activities. The report must include the annual inflow and outflow of former
143.28 service members on the homeless veteran registry, the number of currently homeless former
143.29 service members, the utilization of homeless programs to prevent and end a former service
143.30 member's episode of homelessness, and identify trends in the homeless response system.

144.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

144.2 Subd. 4. **Grant process.** (a) The commissioner shall determine the process for awarding
144.3 grants. A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the operations of the County
144.4 Veterans Service Office.

144.5 (b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as
144.6 developed in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant under subdivision 6 only for a qualifying
144.7 use and if there are sufficient funds remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount
144.8 of the grant.

144.9 (c) The commissioner is authorized to use any unexpended funding for this program to
144.10 ~~provide training and education for county veterans service officers;~~ for the following
144.11 purposes:

144.12 (1) to provide training and education for county veterans service officers; and

144.13 (2) to provide additional grants on a competitive basis to any county that proposes to
144.14 provide programs and services that the commissioner determines to be new and innovative
144.15 in serving veterans and their families.

144.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.608, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

144.17 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each county is eligible to receive an annual grant of \$7,500
144.18 for the following purposes:

144.19 (1) to provide outreach to the county's veterans;

144.20 (2) to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society;

144.21 (3) to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other
144.22 community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans;

144.23 (4) to reduce homelessness among veterans; and

144.24 (5) to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office.

144.25 (b) In addition to the grant amount in paragraph (a), each county is eligible to receive
144.26 an additional annual grant under this paragraph. The amount of each additional annual grant
144.27 must be determined by the commissioner and may not exceed:

144.28 (1) \$0, if the county's veteran population is less than 1,000;

144.29 (2) \$2,500, if the county's veteran population is 1,000 or more but less than 3,000;

- 144.30 (3) \$5,000, if the county's veteran population is 3,000 or more but less than ~~4,999~~ 5,000;
- 145.1 (4) \$7,500, if the county's veteran population is 5,000 or more but less than ~~9,999~~ 10,000;
- 145.2 (5) \$10,000, if the county's veteran population is 10,000 or more but less than ~~19,999~~ 20,000;
- 145.3 20,000;
- 145.4 (6) \$15,000, if the county's veteran population is 20,000 or more but less than ~~29,999~~ 30,000; or
- 145.5 30,000; or
- 145.6 (7) \$20,000, if the county's veteran population is 30,000 or more.
- 145.7 (c) The Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers is eligible to receive
- 145.8 an annual grant of ~~\$50,000~~ \$100,000. The grant shall be used for administrative costs of
- 145.9 the association, certification of mandated county veterans service officer training and
- 145.10 accreditation, and costs associated with reintegration services.
- 145.11 The veteran population of each county shall be determined by the figure supplied by the
- 145.12 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as adopted by the commissioner.
- 145.13 Sec. 4. **[197.61] VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.**
- 145.14 Subdivision 1. **Grant program.** A veterans service organization grant program is
- 145.15 established to provide grants to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations
- 145.16 (VSO) to enhance the effectiveness of veterans services. The program shall be administered
- 145.17 by the commissioner of veterans affairs.
- 145.18 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
- 145.19 meanings given.
- 145.20 (b) "Accredited representation" means providing representation under the authority
- 145.21 granted by the VA to representatives, agents, and attorneys to assist claimants in the
- 145.22 preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits.
- 145.23 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of veterans affairs or a designee.
- 145.24 (d) "Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations" are organizations that
- 145.25 have been granted charters by Congress through the enactment of public laws. Each
- 145.26 congressionally chartered VSO is listed in United States Code, title 36, subtitle II: Patriotic
- 145.27 and National Organizations.
- 145.28 (e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 145.29 (f) "Full member" means a veteran who meets the requirements for membership in a
- 145.30 congressionally chartered veterans service organization and is entitled to all of the rights
- 145.31 and privileges thereof. Full member does not include an associate or auxiliary member.
- 146.1 (g) "VA" means the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

146.2 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a grant under subdivision 6, a veterans service
146.3 organization must provide:

146.4 (1) accredited representation for the preparation and presentation of veteran claims to
146.5 the United States government for compensation and other benefits to which a veteran is
146.6 entitled as a result of the veteran's military service;

146.7 (2) a state or department level veterans service officer to provide programs and services
146.8 to veterans; or

146.9 (3) statewide transportation services to veterans.

146.10 Subd. 4. **Grant process.** (a) A grant may be used only for the purpose of enhancing the
146.11 operations of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations.

146.12 (b) The commissioner shall provide a list of qualifying uses for grant expenditures as
146.13 required in subdivision 5 and shall approve a grant for a qualifying use if there is sufficient
146.14 grant money remaining in the grant program to cover the full amount of the grant.

146.15 Subd. 5. **Qualifying uses.** The commissioner shall develop a list of qualifying uses for
146.16 grants awarded under this section.

146.17 Subd. 6. **Grant amount.** (a) Each congressionally chartered veterans service organization
146.18 is eligible to receive an annual grant determined by the commissioner as follows:

146.19 (1) a dollar amount per full member for each organization member to be established by
146.20 the commissioner. The dollar amount may be adjusted every biennium, subject to available
146.21 funding; and

146.22 (2) a dollar amount for each organization, established by the commissioner, based on
146.23 the organization's share of the VA claims workload for veterans and their dependents who
146.24 reside in Minnesota. The VA claims workload must be reported as a percentage of the state's
146.25 total VA workload.

146.26 (b) The VA claims workload for each congressionally chartered veterans service
146.27 organization must be determined by a report supplied by the VA, as adopted by the
146.28 commissioner.

146.29 Subd. 7. **Recapture.** If a congressionally chartered veterans service organization fails
146.30 to use the grant for a qualified use approved by the commissioner or does not spend the
146.31 allocated grant money, the commissioner shall seek recovery of the grant from the
146.32 organization and the organization must repay the grant amount or any unused grant money.

147.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

147.2 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
147.3 meanings given them.

- 147.4 (a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal
147.5 representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal
147.6 representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this
147.7 section.
- 147.8 (b) "Application" means a request for a bonus payment by a veteran, a veteran's
147.9 beneficiary, or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal representative through
147.10 submission of written information on a form designed by the commissioner for this purpose.
- 147.11 (c) "Beneficiary" means in relation to a deceased veteran and in the order named:
147.12 (1) the surviving spouse, if not remarried;
147.13 (2) the children of the veteran, if there is no surviving spouse or the surviving spouse
147.14 has remarried;
147.15 (3) the veteran's surviving parent or parents;
147.16 (4) the veteran's surviving sibling or siblings; or
147.17 (5) the veteran's estate.
- 147.18 (d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 147.19 (e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 147.20 (f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from ~~August 2, 1990, to July 31,~~
147.21 ~~1991~~ September 11, 2001, to August 30, 2021.
- 147.22 (g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor
147.23 ~~or incapacitated beneficiary or incompetent~~ veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or
147.24 institution in which the ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized
147.25 to accept money for the benefit of the minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the person
147.26 determined by the commissioner to be the person who is legally charged with the
147.27 responsibility for the care of the minor ~~or incapacitated beneficiary or incompetent~~ veteran,
147.28 or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who has assumed the
147.29 responsibility for the care of the minor ~~or incapacitated~~ beneficiary or ~~incompetent~~ veteran.
- 147.30 (h) "Honorable service" means honorable federal service in the United States armed
147.31 forces, as evidenced by:
148.1 (1) an honorable discharge;
148.2 (2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;
148.3 (3) in the case of an officer, a certificate of honorable service; or
148.4 (4) in the case of an applicant who is currently serving in active duty in the United States
148.5 armed forces, a certificate from an appropriate service authority that the applicant's service
148.6 to date has been honorable.

148.7 (i) "Incapacitated person" means an individual who, for reasons other than being a minor,
148.8 lacks sufficient understanding or the capacity to make personal decisions and who is unable
148.9 to meet the individual's own personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or
148.10 safety even when assisted by appropriate technology or supported decision making.

148.11 ~~(+)~~ (j) "Resident veteran" means a veteran who served in active duty in the United States
148.12 armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, and who also:

148.13 (1) has been separated or discharged from the United States armed forces, and ~~whose~~
148.14 ~~home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the United States armed forces, as~~
148.15 ~~indicated on the person's form DD-214 or other documents the commissioner may authorize,~~
148.16 ~~is the state of Minnesota~~ has lived in Minnesota for at least 30 days at the time of application
148.17 with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant
148.18 may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license; a state
148.19 identification card; a voter registration card; a rent receipt; a statement by the landlord,
148.20 apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address;
148.21 or other form of verification approved by the commissioner; or

148.22 (2) is currently serving in the United States armed forces, and has a certificate from an
148.23 appropriate service authority stating that the person: (i) served in active duty in the United
148.24 States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus; and (ii) ~~had~~ has
148.25 Minnesota listed as the veteran's home of record at the time of entry into active duty in the
148.26 United States armed forces in the veteran's official military personnel file.

148.27 ~~(+)~~ (k) "Service connected" means caused by an injury or disease incurred or aggravated
148.28 while on active duty, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

148.29 ~~(+)~~ (l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447; and does not include a
148.30 member of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces
148.31 ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes:

148.32 ~~(+)~~ a person who is providing honorable service on active duty in the United States
148.33 armed forces and has not been separated or discharged; ~~or,~~

149.1 ~~(2) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including~~
149.2 ~~the National Guard, who was ordered to active duty under United States Code, title 10,~~
149.3 ~~section 673b, during the eligibility period for the bonus and who was deployed to a duty~~
149.4 ~~station outside the state of Minnesota, as verified by the appropriate service authority. An~~
149.5 ~~applicant's DD-214 form showing eligibility for or award of the Southwest Asia service~~
149.6 ~~medal during the eligibility period for the bonus will suffice as verification.~~

149.7 "Veteran" does not include a member of the National Guard or the reserve components
149.8 of the United States armed forces ordered to active duty for the sole purpose of training.

149.9 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

149.10 Subd. 2. **Bonus amount.** (a) For a resident veteran who provided honorable service in
149.11 the United States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, the
149.12 bonus amount is:

149.13 (1) ~~\$300~~ \$600, if the veteran did not receive the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
149.14 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
149.15 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus;

149.16 (2) ~~\$600~~ \$1200, if the veteran received the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed Forces
149.17 Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal,
149.18 or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

149.19 (3) \$2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the ~~Southwest Asia service medal~~ Armed
149.20 Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign
149.21 Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus, and
149.22 died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or
149.23 condition.

149.24 (b) In the case of a deceased veteran, the commissioner shall pay the bonus to the veteran's
149.25 beneficiary.

149.26 ~~(c) No payment may be made to a veteran or beneficiary who has received a similar~~
149.27 ~~bonus payment from another state.~~

149.28 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

149.29 Subd. 3. **Application process.** A veteran, or the beneficiary of a veteran, entitled to a
149.30 bonus may make application for a bonus to the department ~~on a form~~ as prescribed by the
149.31 commissioner and verified by the applicant. If the veteran is ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated or
149.32 the veteran's beneficiary is a minor or ~~incompetent~~ incapacitated, the application must be
150.1 made by the person's guardian or conservator. An application must be accompanied by
150.2 evidence of residency, honorable service, active duty service during the eligibility period
150.3 for the bonus, and any other information the commissioner requires. The applicant must
150.4 indicate on the application form the bonus amount for which the applicant expects to be
150.5 eligible.

150.6 If the information provided in the application is incomplete, the department must notify
150.7 the applicant in writing of that fact and must identify the items of information needed to
150.8 make a determination. After notifying an applicant that the person's application is incomplete,
150.9 the department shall hold the application open for up to 120 days while awaiting further
150.10 information from the applicant, and the applicant may submit that information within the
150.11 120-day period without filing an appeal and request for review.

150.12 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

150.13 Subd. 5. **Notices.** Notices and correspondence to an applicant must be directed to the
150.14 applicant by mail at the address listed in the application or electronically. Notices and
150.15 correspondence to the commissioner must be addressed to the commissioner's office ~~in St.~~
150.16 ~~Paul~~ or the designated department system.

150.17 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 197.79, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

150.18 Subd. 10. **Deadline for applications.** The application period for the bonus program
150.19 established in this section shall be ~~November 1, 1997, to June 30, 2001~~ July 1, 2022, to
150.20 June 30, 2024. The department may not receive or accept new applications after June 30,
150.21 ~~2001~~ 2024.