ARTICLE 1

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Section 1. Appropriations.

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROPRIATIONS</th>
<th>Available for the Year</th>
<th>Ending June 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>$63,492,000</td>
<td>$28,646,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td></td>
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Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation

The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions. The base is $27,156,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $27,166,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

2 Subd. 2. Maintenance of Training Facilities

9,951,000 10,064,000

3 Subd. 3. General Support

39,247,000 4,818,000

4 The base is $4,828,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $4,838,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

5 (a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).

$585,000 the first year and $562,000 the second year are for administrative and payroll.

6 (a) MN Cyber Coordination Cell (C3).

$562,000 the first year and $590,000 the second year are for administrative and payroll.
costs to create and operate a Cyber Coordination Cell in the Minnesota National Guard. The base is $569,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $576,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

(b) Army Combat Fitness Test Field House:
$17,600,000 the first year is for predesign, design, construction, furnishing and equipping costs for an Army Combat Fitness Test Field House.

(c) Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley.
$17,000,000 the first year is for the design and construction of the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley. This appropriation is in addition to the appropriation made in Laws 2020, Fifth Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section 14, subdivision 6, for the same purposes. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

(d) Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F):
$304,000 the first year and $307,000 the second year are for administrative and payroll costs to create and operate Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) initiatives across the Minnesota Army National Guard. The base is $310,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $313,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives
The appropriations in this subdivision are available until June 30, 2027.

If the amount for fiscal year 2024 is insufficient, the amount for 2025 is available in fiscal year 2024. Any unencumbered balance does not cancel at the end of the first year and is available for the second year.
3.17 Subd. 5. Emergency Services 650,000 150,000
3.18 Sustain Domestic Operations 600,000 500,000
3.19 Communication Capabilities, $650,000 the first year and $150,000 the second year are for ongoing replacement of communications systems to support domestic operations when ordered into state service by the governor.
3.20 Sustain Domestic Operations 650,000 the first year and $150,000 the second year are for ongoing replacement of communications systems to support domestic operations when ordered into state service by the governor. The base for this appropriation is $300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.
3.21 Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS 133,702,000
3.22 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation $145,309,000 $131,581,000
3.23 The base is $123,194,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $124,276,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.
3.24 Subd. 1. Veterans Programs and Services 55,799,000 30,704,000
3.25 The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions. The base is $30,109,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $30,241,000 in fiscal year 2027.
3.26 Veterans Programs and Services 50,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the
3.27 (a) State’s Veterans Cemeteries. $4,598,000
3.28 the first year and $4,627,000 the second year are for the operation of the state’s veterans cemeteries. The base is $4,158,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $4,192,000 in fiscal year 2027.
3.29 Veterans Service Organizations 50,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the
3.30 (b) Veterans Service Organizations. $50,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the
3.31 Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services 60,184,000 31,634,000
3.32 The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions. The base is $30,109,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $30,241,000 in fiscal year 2027.
3.33 (a) State’s Veterans Cemeteries. $4,598,000
3.34 the first year and $4,627,000 the second year are for the operation of the state’s veterans cemeteries. The base is $4,158,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $4,192,000 in fiscal year 2027.
3.35 Veterans Service Organizations 50,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the
3.36 (b) Veterans Service Organizations. $50,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the
4.18 funding currently being provided by the commissioner to these organizations.

4.20 (c) Honor Guards. $200,000 each year is for compensation for honor guards at the funerals of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.231.

4.24 (d) Minnesota GI Bill. $200,000 each year is for the costs of administering the Minnesota GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship program under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.791.

4.30 (e) Gold Star Program. $100,000 each year is for administering the Gold Star Program for surviving family members of deceased veterans.

5.1 (f) County Veterans Service Office. $1,550,000 each year is for funding the County Veterans Service Office grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.

5.5 (g) Camp Bliss. $150,000 each year is for a grant to Camp Bliss as provided for in section 6. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter is $75,000.

5.9 (h) Veterans on the Lake. $50,000 each year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for Minnesota veterans.

5.11 grants to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations for the purpose of making veterans service organization buildings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The commissioner must not award a grantee more than $100,000 under this appropriation. A grantee must use funds received under this appropriation for a building owned by the grantee.

5.11 (i) Veterans on the Lake. $50,000 each year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for veterans.
5.10 veterans, including therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. These are onetime appropriations.

5.11 (j) Veteran Resilience Project. $400,000 each year is for a grant to the veteran resilience project. Grant funds must be used to make eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy available to veterans, veterans’ spouses, current military service members, and current military service members’ spouses who are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. To be eligible for services, a prospective client must be a resident of the state or assigned to a permanent duty station in the state pursuant to their military service. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter is $200,000. The veteran resilience project must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance by January 15 of each year on the program. The report must include an overview of the program's budget, a detailed explanation of program expenditures, the number of veterans and service members served by the program, and a list and explanation of the services provided to program participants.

5.12 The veteran resilience project must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance by January 15 of each year on the program. The report must include an overview of the program's budget, a detailed explanation of program expenditures, the number of veterans and service members served by the program, and a list and explanation of the services provided to program participants.

5.13 (k) Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. $300,000 each year is for a grant to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum for museum staff to provide direct services to veterans and their families.

5.14 (l) Every Third Saturday. $100,000 each year is for a grant to Every Third Saturday to provide veterans with emergency assistance and internships. Every Third Saturday must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members.
of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance no later than September 1, 2024, and by September 1 of each subsequent year. Each report must include, at a minimum, a detailed explanation of how the grant money was used and the number of veterans served by the program. These are onetime appropriations.

5.34 (k) CORE Program. $1,475,000 each year is for the Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE) program. These amounts are available until June 30, 2027. The base for this appropriation is $975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

6.30 (n) Recently Separated Veterans Program. $350,000 the first year and $300,000 the second year are for operation of the recently separated veterans program. The commissioner of veterans affairs may use money for personnel, research, marketing, and professional or technical contracts. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter is $300,000.

6.18 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
6.19 over veterans affairs policy and finance no
6.20 later than September 1, 2024, and by
6.21 September 1 of each subsequent year. Each
6.22 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed
6.23 explanation of how the grant money was used
6.24 and the number of veterans served by the
6.25 program. These are onetime appropriations.

6.26 (f) CORE Program, $1,225,000 each year is for the Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE) program.

6.30 (n) LinkVet Call Center. $369,000 each year is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call Center.

6.33 (n) Recently Separated Veterans Program.

6.34 $350,000 each year is for the operation of the recently separated veterans program. The commissioner of veterans affairs may use Department of Defense and other veteran data that were provided with an appropriate disclosure to assist with connecting veterans to resources and new programming. The commissioner may use money for personnel, research, marketing, technology solutions, and professional or technical contracts. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter is $300,000.

6.11 (g) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program. $675,000 each year is to operate the homeless veteran registry and homeless programs and to assist veterans, former service members, and their dependents with obtaining federal benefits through the Social Security Administration. The commissioner of veterans affairs may use money for personnel, training, research, marketing, and professional or technical contracts. The base for this appropriation is $300,000 each year.
appropriation in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter is $1,097,000.

The base for this appropriation is $975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. $7,990,000 the first year and $990,000 the second year are for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to veterans and their families who are homeless or in danger of homelessness, including assistance with:

1. (1) supportive services to maintain housing;
2. (2) employment;
3. (3) legal issues;
4. (4) housing and housing-related costs;
5. (5) transportation;
6. (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent supportive housing; and
7. (7) property management of permanent supportive housing.

Of these amounts, $5,680,000 the first year is for the establishment of permanent supportive housing options for homeless veterans and former service members. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2026. $440,000 the first year is for the direct veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime appropriation. Any unencumbered balance remaining in this subdivision in the first year for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans does not cancel and is available for the second year. The base is $975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter.

Assistance authorized under this paragraph must be provided only to a veteran who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the veteran’s application for assistance and according to other guidelines established by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Following the establishment of permanent supportive housing options for homeless veterans and former service members, $250,000 the first year is for the direct veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime appropriation. Any unencumbered balance remaining in this subdivision in the first year for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans does not cancel and is available for the second year. The base is $1,075,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Assistance authorized under this paragraph must be provided only to a veteran who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the veteran’s application for assistance and according to other guidelines established by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Of these amounts, $8,000,000 the first year is for the establishment of permanent supportive housing options for homeless veterans and former service members. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2026. $250,000 the first year is for the direct veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime appropriation. Any unencumbered balance remaining in this subdivision in the first year for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans does not cancel and is available for the second year. The base is $1,075,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Assistance authorized under this paragraph must be provided only to a veteran who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the veteran’s application for assistance and according to other guidelines established by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

The base for this appropriation is $975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. $9,325,000 the first year and $7,090,000 the second year are for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to veterans and their families who are homeless or in danger of homelessness, including assistance with:

1. (1) supportive services to maintain housing;
2. (2) employment;
3. (3) legal issues;
4. (4) housing and housing-related costs;
5. (5) transportation;
6. (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent supportive housing; and
7. (7) property management of permanent supportive housing.

Of these amounts, $9,325,000 the first year is for the direct veteran assistance grant. This is a onetime appropriation. Any unencumbered balance remaining in this subdivision in the first year for grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans does not cancel and is available for the second year. The base is $975,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Assistance authorized under this paragraph must be provided only to a veteran who has resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to the veteran’s application for assistance and according to other guidelines established by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.
the commissioner. To avoid duplication of services, the commissioner must ensure that this assistance is coordinated with all other available programs for veterans.

8.29 (q) Veterans Bonus Program, $15,000,000
8.30 the first year is for service bonuses to Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2024.

8.31 (p) Veterans Bonus Program, $15,000,000
8.32 the first year is for service bonuses to Post-9/11 Veterans and Gold Star families under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.79. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2024.

8.33 (q) Metro Meals on Wheels, $540,000 each year is for a grant to Metro Meals on Wheels to provide: (1) home-delivered meals to veterans; and (2) technical, enrollment, outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance to member programs. Metro Meals on Wheels must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance by September 1 each year with a detailed explanation of how the grant money was used and the number of veterans and service members served by the program.

8.34 (r) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.
8.35 $4,311,000 the first year and $1,311,000 the second year are for an initiative to prevent and end veteran homelessness.

8.36 (s) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.
8.37 $4,311,000 the first year and $1,311,000 the second year are for an initiative to prevent and end veteran homelessness.

8.38 (t) Vietnam War Anniversary.
8.39 $250,000 the first year is to prepare and host a commemoration program for the fiftieth anniversary of the Vietnam War.

8.40 (u) Veterans Campground Wastewater System Upgrades.
8.41 $754,000 the first year is for one or more grants to the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to design, engineer, permit, and construct wastewater systems on campground.
property to increase the capacity of wastewater systems. This is a onetime appropriation.

Subd. 3. Veterans Health Care

(a) The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 is $93,237,000 and $94,285,000 in fiscal year 2027 and each year thereafter.

(b) $87,964,000 the first year and $88,610,000 the second year may be transferred to a veterans homes special revenue account in the special revenue fund in the same manner as other receipts are deposited according to Minnesota Statutes, section 198.34, and are appropriated to the commissioner of veterans affairs for the operation of veterans homes facilities and programs. The base for this transfer is $92,437,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $93,485,000 in fiscal year 2027.

(c) The department shall seek opportunities to maximize federal reimbursements of Medicare-eligible expenses and provide annual reports to the commissioner of management and budget on the federal Medicare reimbursements that are received. Contingent upon future federal Medicare receipts, reductions to the veterans homes' general fund appropriation may be made.

(d) $350,000 the first year and $450,000 the second year are for the department to staff Veteran Community Health Navigators in community-based hospitals. These are onetime appropriations.

(e) $190,000 the first year is for the working group established under article 2, section 8.
Sec. 4. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services
$750,000 each year is for the Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE) program. $353,000 each year is for grants to the following congressionally chartered veterans service organizations as designated by the commissioner: Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding must be allocated in direct proportion to the funding currently being provided by the commissioner to these organizations.

The assistance authorized under this paragraph must be made only to veterans who have resided in Minnesota for 30 days prior to application for assistance and according to other guidelines established by the commissioner. In order to avoid duplication of services, the commissioner must ensure that this assistance is coordinated with all other available programs for veterans.
11.13 (d) State's Veterans Cemeteries. $6,172,000
11.14 the first year and $1,672,000 the second year
11.15 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
11.16 amounts, $4,500,000 the first year is to
11.17 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
11.18 in Redwood Falls.
11.19 (e) Honor Guards. $200,000 each year is for
11.20 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
11.21 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
11.22 197.231.
11.23 (f) Minnesota GI Bill. $200,000 each year is for
11.24 the costs of administering the Minnesota
11.25 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
11.26 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
11.27 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
11.28 197.791.
11.29 (g) Gold Star Program. $100,000 each year
11.30 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
11.31 surviving family members of deceased
11.32 veterans.
11.33 (h) County Veterans Service Office.
11.34 $1,100,000 each year is for funding the
11.35 County Veterans Service Office grant program
11.36 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.
11.37 (i) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.
11.38 $3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
11.39 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
11.40 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
11.41 housing vouchers and other services to
11.42 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
11.43 former service members in Minnesota. The
11.44 commissioner may contract for program
11.45 administration and may establish a vacancy
11.46 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
11.47 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
11.48 $1,311,000.
11.49 (j) Camp Bliss. $75,000 each year is for a
11.50 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
11.51 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
11.52 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
17.29 (d) State's Veterans Cemeteries. $6,172,000
17.30 the first year and $1,672,000 the second year
17.31 are for the state's veterans cemeteries. Of these
17.32 amounts, $4,500,000 the first year is to
17.33 construct and equip the new veterans cemetery
17.34 in Redwood Falls.
17.35 (e) Honor Guards. $200,000 each year is for
17.36 compensation for honor guards at the funerals
17.37 of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section
17.38 197.231.
17.39 (f) Minnesota GI Bill. $200,000 each year is for
17.40 the costs of administering the Minnesota
17.41 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
17.42 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
17.43 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
17.44 197.791.
17.45 (g) Gold Star Program. $100,000 each year
17.46 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
17.47 surviving family members of deceased
17.48 veterans.
17.49 (h) County Veterans Service Office.
17.50 $1,100,000 each year is for funding the
17.51 County Veterans Service Office grant program
17.52 under Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608.
17.53 (i) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.
17.54 $3,165,000 each year is for an initiative to
17.55 prevent and end veteran homelessness. The
17.56 commissioner of veterans affairs may provide
17.57 housing vouchers and other services to
17.58 alleviate homelessness among veterans and
17.59 former service members in Minnesota. The
17.60 commissioner may contract for program
17.61 administration and may establish a vacancy
17.62 reserve fund. The base for this appropriation
17.63 in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is
17.64 $1,311,000.
17.65 (j) Camp Bliss. $75,000 each year is for a
17.66 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc. for
17.67 expenses related to retreats for veterans at
17.68 Camp Bliss in Walker, Minnesota, including
therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. (k) Veterans On The Lake. $50,000 in the first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for veterans, including therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. Veterans On The Lake. $50,000 in the first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for veterans, including therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. Veterans Resilience Project. $400,000 each year is for a grant to the veterans resilience project. Grant funds must be used to make eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy available to veterans and veterans' spouses, current military service members, and current military service members' spouses who are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is $200,000. The veterans resilience project must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance by January 15 of each year on the program. The report must include an overview of the program's budget, a detailed explanation of program expenditures, the number of veterans and service members served by the program, and a list and explanation of the services provided to program participants. (m) 9/11 Task Force. $500,000 the first year is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The task force must collect, memorialize, and publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their dependents. The task force must host a remembrance program in September 2021. This is a onetime appropriation. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment. therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. (k) Veterans On The Lake. $50,000 in the first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for veterans, including therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. Veterans On The Lake. $50,000 in the first year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for expenses related to retreats for veterans, including therapy, transportation, and activities customized for veterans. Veterans Resilience Project. $400,000 each year is for a grant to the veterans resilience project. Grant funds must be used to make eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy available to veterans and veterans' spouses, current military service members, and current military service members' spouses who are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024 and each year thereafter is $200,000. The veterans resilience project must report to the commissioner of veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and finance by January 15 of each year on the program. The report must include an overview of the program's budget, a detailed explanation of program expenditures, the number of veterans and service members served by the program, and a list and explanation of the services provided to program participants. (m) 9/11 Task Force. $500,000 the first year is for the Advisory Task Force on 9/11 and Global War on Terrorism Remembrance. The task force must collect, memorialize, and publish stories of Minnesotans' service in the Global War on Terrorism and impacts on their dependents. The task force must host a remembrance program in September 2021. This is a onetime appropriation. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.
Sec. 4. CANCELLATION: FISCAL YEAR 2023.
(a) $3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 37, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), is canceled to the general fund by June 30, 2023.
(b) $754,000 of the fiscal year 2023 general fund appropriation under Laws 2022, chapter 54, article 1, section 3; subdivision 2, paragraph (k), is canceled to the general fund by June 30, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 6. CAMP BLISS GRANT PROGRAM.
Subdivision 1. Grant program; eligibility; reimbursement requirements.
(a) The commissioner of veterans affairs shall issue a grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., for expenses related to retreats for eligible veterans and their family members at Camp Bliss in the city of Walker.
(b) The grant recipient may use grant money to provide therapy, transportation, and activities customized for eligible veterans and their family members.
(c) The commissioner must reimburse the grant recipient at least $850 for each eligible veteran or family member who the commissioner verifies attended the camp and received services from the grant recipient. The commissioner shall disburse money to the grant recipient for up to two visits per year to the camp for each eligible veteran or family member.

Subd. 2. Definitions.
(a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:
(b) "Eligible veteran" means a Minnesota resident who is either:
(1) a former armed forces service member who has a DD-214 or other official document from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the honorable service of the veteran or
(2) a current armed forces member, whether serving in the active or reserve component.
(c) "Family member" means an eligible veteran's spouse, domestic partner, and children.

Sec. 7. FINANCIAL REVIEW OF NONPROFIT GRANT RECIPIENTS REQUIRED.
Subdivision 1. Financial review required.
(a) Before awarding a competitive, legislatively named, single-source, or sole-source grant to a nonprofit organization under this act, the grantor must require the applicant to submit financial information sufficient for the grantor to document and assess the applicant's current financial standing and management. Items of significant concern must be addressed with the applicant and resolved to the satisfaction of the grantor before a grant is awarded. The grantor must document the material requested and reviewed; whether the applicant had a significant operating deficit, a deficit
in unrestricted net assets; or insufficient internal controls; whether and how the applicant
resolved the grantor's concerns; and the grantor's final decision. This documentation must
be maintained in the grantor's files.

(b) At a minimum, the grantor must require each applicant to provide the following
information:

(1) the applicant's most recent Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N filed with the
Internal Revenue Service. If the applicant has not been in existence long enough or is not
required to file Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N, the applicant must demonstrate
to the grantor that the applicant is exempt and must instead submit documentation of internal
controls and the applicant's most recent financial statement prepared in accordance with
generally accepted accounting principles and approved by the applicant's board of directors
or trustees or, if there is no such board, by the applicant's managing group;

(2) evidence of registration and good standing with the secretary of state under Minnesota
Statutes, chapter 317A, or other applicable law;

(3) unless exempt under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.515; evidence of registration
and good standing with the attorney general under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 309; and

(4) if required under Minnesota Statutes, section 309.53, subdivision 3, the applicant's
most recent audited financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted
accounting principles.

Subd. 2. Authority to postpone or forgo. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in
this act, a grantor that identifies an area of significant concern regarding the financial standing
or management of a legislatively named applicant may postpone or forgo awarding the
grant.

Subd. 3. Authority to award subject to additional assistance and oversight. A grantor
that identifies an area of significant concern regarding an applicant's financial standing or
management may award a grant to the applicant if the grantor provides or the grantee
otherwise obtains additional technical assistance, as needed, and the grantor imposes
additional requirements in the grant agreement. Additional requirements may include but
are not limited to enhanced monitoring, additional reporting, or other reasonable requirements
imposed by the grantor to protect the interests of the state.

Subd. 4. Relation to other law and policy. The requirements in this section are in
addition to any other requirements imposed by law; the commissioner of administration
under Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.97 and 16B.98; or agency policy;
ARTICLE 2

VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTORY CHANGES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

Subd. 2a. Uses; veterans. (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account may be used for:

1. (1) grants to veterans service organizations;
2. (2) outreach to underserved veterans;
3. (3) providing services and programs for veterans and their families;
4. (4) transfers to the vehicle services account for Gold Star license plates under section 168.1253;
5. (5) grants of up to $100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their families;
6. (6) grants to an eligible foundation; and
7. (7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "eligible foundation" includes any organization that:

1. (1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
2. (2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. Burial fees prohibited. (a) The commissioner of veterans affairs shall establish a fee schedule, which may be adjusted from time to time, for the interment of eligible spouses and dependent children. The fees shall cover as nearly as practicable the actual costs of interment, excluding the value of the plot.

(b) Upon application, the commissioner may waive or reduce the burial fee for an indigent eligible person. The commissioner shall develop a policy, eligibility standards, and application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.
No plot or interment fees may be charged for the burial of service members who die on active duty or eligible veterans, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 101.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

(a) "Applicant" means a veteran or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal representative or a beneficiary or a beneficiary's guardian, conservator, or personal representative who has filed an application with the commissioner for a bonus under this section.

(b) "Application" means a request for a bonus payment by a veteran, a veteran's beneficiary, or a veteran's guardian, conservator, or personal representative through submission of written information on a form designed by the commissioner for this purpose.

(c) "Beneficiary" means in relation to a deceased veteran and in the order named:

(1) the surviving spouse, if not remarried;

(2) the children of the veteran, if there is no surviving spouse or the surviving spouse has remarried;

(3) the veteran's surviving parent or parents;

(4) the veteran's surviving sibling or siblings;

(5) the veteran's estate.

(d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(e) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(f) "Eligibility period for the bonus" means the period from September 11, 2001, to August 30, 2021.

(g) "Guardian" or "conservator" means the legally appointed representative of a minor or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, the chief officer of a hospital or institution in which the incapacitated veteran is placed if the officer is authorized to accept money for the benefit of the minor or incapacitated veteran, the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who is legally charged with the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran, or the person determined by the commissioner to be the person who has assumed the responsibility for the care of the minor or incapacitated beneficiary or veteran.

(h) "Honorable service" means honorable federal service in the United States armed forces, as evidenced by:
(1) an honorable discharge;

(2) a general discharge under honorable conditions;

(3) in the case of an officer, a certificate of honorable service; or

(4) in the case of an applicant who is currently serving in active duty in the United States

armed forces, a certificate from an appropriate service authority that the applicant’s service
to date has been honorable.

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

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

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

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

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

(l) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447 and does not include a member
of the National Guard or the reserve components of the United States armed forces ordered
to active duty for the sole purpose of training. Veteran also includes a person who is providing
honorable service on active duty in the United States armed forces and has not been separated
or discharged.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Bonus amount. (a) For a resident veteran who provided honorable service in
the United States armed forces at any time during the eligibility period for the bonus, the
bonus amount is:
(1) $600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

(2) $1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

(3) $2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus, and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or condition.

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

Reapplication allowed. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an eligible veteran who previously applied for a bonus under this section may reapply if the veteran either was denied a bonus or is entitled to receive a larger bonus than was originally awarded based on the amendments to this section contained in this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

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

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

(1) the federal Pell Grant;

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

(3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(1) $600, if the veteran did not receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

(2) $1200, if the veteran received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus; or

(3) $2,000, if the veteran was eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal during the eligibility period for the bonus, and died during that time period as a direct result of a service connected injury, disease, or condition.

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

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.79, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 11. Reapplication allowed. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an eligible veteran who previously applied for a bonus under this section may reapply if the veteran either was denied a bonus or is entitled to receive a larger bonus than was originally awarded based on the amendments to this section contained in this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

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

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

(1) the federal Pell Grant;

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

(3) any federal military or veterans educational benefits including but not limited to the Montgomery GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, the federal tuition assistance program, vocational rehabilitation benefits, and any other federal benefits associated with the person's status as a veteran, except veterans disability payments from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
The amount of educational assistance for any eligible person who is a full-time student must not exceed the following:

1. $2,000 per state fiscal year; and
2. $10,000 in a lifetime.

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

An "eligible employer" means an employer operating a qualifying apprenticeship or on-the-job training program that has been approved by the commissioner. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry, shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as provided in this subdivision.

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

A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this subdivision if the person is:

1. A veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United States armed forces at any time;
2. A nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001;
3. The surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or
4. The spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended.

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

1. $2,000 per state fiscal year; and
2. $10,000 in a lifetime.

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

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. Apprenticeship and on-the-job training. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of employment and economic development and labor and industry, shall develop and implement an apprenticeship and on-the-job training program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay benefit amounts to eligible persons, as provided in this subdivision.

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

A person is eligible for apprenticeship and on-the-job training assistance under this subdivision if the person is:

1. A veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United States armed forces at any time;
2. A nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001;
3. The surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or
4. The spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time and who has a total and permanent service-connected disability as rated by the United States Veterans Administration, only if the spouse or child is eligible to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended.
The amount of assistance paid to or on behalf of an eligible individual under this subdivision must not exceed the following:

1. $3,000 per fiscal year for apprenticeship expenses;
2. $3,000 per fiscal year for on-the-job training;
3. $1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer upon hiring and completion of six consecutive months' employment of a person receiving assistance under this subdivision; and
4. $1,000 for a job placement credit payable to an eligible employer after a person receiving assistance under this subdivision has been employed by the eligible employer for at least 12 consecutive months as a full-time employee.

No more than $5,000 in aggregate benefits under this subdivision may be paid to or on behalf of an individual in one fiscal year.

If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5b, the eligible person's aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5b must not exceed $10,000.

Assistance for apprenticeship expenses and on-the-job training is available for qualifying programs, which must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

1. The training must be with an eligible employer;
2. The training must be documented and reported;
3. The training must reasonably be expected to lead to an entry-level position; and
4. The position must require at least six months of training to become fully trained.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.791, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. Additional professional or educational benefits. (a) The commissioner shall develop and implement a program to administer a portion of the Minnesota GI Bill program to pay additional benefit amounts to eligible persons as provided under this subdivision.

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

1. A veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch or unit of the United States armed forces at any time;
2. A nonveteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001;
3. The surviving spouse or child of a person who has served in the military and who has died as a direct result of that military service, only if the surviving spouse or child is eligible.
to receive federal education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, as amended, or United States Code, title 38, chapter 35, as amended; or

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

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

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

(2) $10,000 $15,000 in a lifetime.

(d) If an eligible person receives benefits under subdivision 5 or 5a, the eligible person's aggregate benefits under this subdivision and subdivisions 5 and 5a must not exceed $10,000 $15,000 in the eligible person's lifetime.

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

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

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

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

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

(5) any fee associated with the pursuit of a professional or educational objective specified in clauses (1) to (4).
(ii) the Department of Health;

(ii) two Department of Veterans Affairs staff with expertise in veterans homes, appointed by the commissioner of veterans affairs;

(iii) two Department of Health staff with expertise in boarding care homes, specifically the licensure of the domiciliary and related standards of care, appointed by the commissioner of health;

(iv) five medical professionals, including a medical doctor, a nurse, a mental health professional, and two other health care professionals, with expertise in veterans health care, appointed by the governor;

(v) up to three past or current domiciliary staff with experience caring for residents appointed by the governor; and

(vi) four public members who have an interest in veterans affairs, including two public members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two public members appointed by the majority leader of the senate.

Subd. 2. Duties. The working group shall meet on a regular basis and the first meeting must be no later than 45 days after the effective date of this section. The working group shall review and analyze the acuity of domiciliary residents and the current care model, including admission, care plans, and day-to-day care, and the current staffing structure and ratios. The working group shall provide recommendations on:

(1) staffing levels that are necessary to properly care for the range of acuity of residents;

(2) a care delivery model that focuses on appropriate and adequate care for residents;

(3) additional and ongoing training for domiciliary staff;

(4) sufficient management structure to ensure support and provide guidance to staff; and

(5) outcomes to determine if staffing levels and care delivery are appropriate or if, based on the outcomes, adjustments are necessary.

The working group shall provide information and recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2024, by which the legislature can use as a foundation to make decisions and effectuate change that will ensure the standard of care and staffing levels are sufficient for the different resident acuity levels who are being cared for in the domiciliary.

Subd. 3. Administrative provisions. (a) The commissioner of veterans affairs or the commissioner’s designee must convene the initial meeting of the working group. Upon request of the working group, the commissioner must provide meeting space and administrative services for the group. The members of the working group must elect a chair or cochairs from the members of the working group at the initial meeting.
(b) Public members of the working group serve without compensation or payment of expenses.

c) The working group expires January 15, 2024, or upon submission of the report required under subdivision 2, whichever is earlier.

d) The working group may accept gifts and grants, which are accepted on behalf of the state and constitute donations to the state. Funds received under this paragraph are appropriated to the commissioner of veterans affairs for purposes of the working group.

Subd. 4. Deadline for appointments and designations. The appointments and designations authorized by this section must be completed by August 1, 2023.