

1.13	ARTICLE 1		
1.14	MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS		
1.15	Section 1. <u>APPROPRIATIONS.</u>		
1.16	The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies		
1.17	<u>and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,</u>		
1.18	<u>or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.</u>		
1.19	<u>The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under</u>		
1.20	<u>them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively.</u>		
1.21	<u>"The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium"</u>		
1.22	<u>is fiscal years 2026 and 2027.</u>		
1.23	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>		
1.24	<u>Available for the Year</u>		
1.25	<u>Ending June 30</u>		
1.26		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
2.1	Sec. 2. <u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>		
2.2	Subdivision 1. <u>Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ 26,872,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,081,000</u>
2.3	<u>The amounts that may be spent for each</u>		
2.4	<u>purpose are specified in the following</u>		
2.5	<u>subdivisions.</u>		
2.6	Subd. 2. <u>Maintenance of Training Facilities</u>	<u>10,067,000</u>	<u>10,067,000</u>
2.7	Subd. 3. <u>General Support</u>	<u>4,391,000</u>	<u>4,600,000</u>
2.8	Subd. 4. <u>Enlistment Incentives</u>	<u>12,114,000</u>	<u>12,114,000</u>
2.9	<u>The appropriations in this subdivision are</u>		
2.10	<u>available until June 30, 2029.</u>		
2.11	<u>If the amount for fiscal year 2026 is</u>		
2.12	<u>insufficient, the amount for 2027 is available</u>		
2.13	<u>in fiscal year 2026. Any unencumbered</u>		

1.12	ARTICLE 1		
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1.17	<u>or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.</u>		
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1.19	<u>them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively.</u>		
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1.21	<u>is fiscal years 2026 and 2027.</u>		
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1.23	<u>Available for the Year</u>		
1.24	<u>Ending June 30</u>		
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1.26	Sec. 2. <u>MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>		
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2.8	<u>The appropriations in this subdivision are</u>		
2.9	<u>available until June 30, 2029.</u>		
2.10	<u>If the amount for fiscal year 2026 is</u>		
2.11	<u>insufficient, the amount for 2027 is available</u>		
2.12	<u>in fiscal year 2026. Any unencumbered</u>		

2.14	<u>balance does not cancel at the end of the first</u>		
2.15	<u>year and is available for the second year.</u>		
2.16	<u>Subd. 5. Emergency Services</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
2.17	<u>Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS</u>		
2.18	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ 141,929,000</u>	<u>\$ 146,700,000</u>
2.19	<u>The base for this appropriation is</u>		
2.20	<u>\$151,130,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each</u>		
2.21	<u>fiscal year thereafter. The amounts that may</u>		
2.22	<u>be spent for each purpose are specified in the</u>		
2.23	<u>following subdivisions.</u>		
2.24	<u>Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services</u>	<u>30,677,000</u>	<u>31,080,000</u>
2.25	<u>The amounts that may be spent for each</u>		
2.26	<u>purpose are specified in the following</u>		
2.27	<u>paragraphs.</u>		
2.28	<u>(a) State Veterans Cemeteries. \$3,782,000</u>		
2.29	<u>each year is for the operation of the state</u>		
2.30	<u>veterans cemeteries.</u>		
3.1	<u>(b) Veterans Service Organizations.</u>		
3.2	<u>\$500,000 each year is for grants to the</u>		
3.3	<u>following congressionally chartered veterans</u>		
3.4	<u>service organizations as designated by the</u>		
3.5	<u>commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,</u>		
3.6	<u>Military Order of the Purple Heart, the</u>		
3.7	<u>American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,</u>		
3.8	<u>Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and</u>		
3.9	<u>Paralyzed Veterans of America. This funding</u>		
3.10	<u>must be allocated in direct proportion to the</u>		
3.11	<u>funding currently being provided by the</u>		
3.12	<u>commissioner to these organizations.</u>		
3.13	<u>(c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for</u>		
3.14	<u>compensation for honor guards at the funerals</u>		
3.15	<u>of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section</u>		
3.16	<u>197.231.</u>		
3.17	<u>(d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is</u>		
3.18	<u>for the costs of administering the Minnesota</u>		

2.13	<u>balance does not cancel at the end of the first</u>		
2.14	<u>year and is available for the second year.</u>		
2.15	<u>Subd. 5. Emergency Services</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
2.16	<u>Sec. 3. VETERANS AFFAIRS</u>		
2.17	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ 125,804,000</u>	<u>\$ 126,847,000</u>
2.18	<u>The base for this appropriation is</u>		
2.19	<u>\$126,756,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each</u>		
2.20	<u>fiscal year thereafter. The amounts that may</u>		
2.21	<u>be spent for each purpose are specified in the</u>		
2.22	<u>following subdivisions.</u>		
2.23	<u>Subd. 2. Veterans Programs and Services</u>	<u>25,617,000</u>	<u>25,494,000</u>
2.24	<u>The amounts that may be spent for each</u>		
2.25	<u>purpose are specified in the following</u>		
2.26	<u>paragraphs.</u>		
2.27	<u>(a) State Veterans Cemeteries. \$3,782,000</u>		
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2.29	<u>veterans cemeteries.</u>		
2.30	<u>(b) Veterans Service Organizations.</u>		
2.31	<u>\$500,000 each year is for grants to the</u>		
2.32	<u>following congressionally chartered veterans</u>		
3.1	<u>service organizations as designated by the</u>		
3.2	<u>commissioner: Disabled American Veterans,</u>		
3.3	<u>Military Order of the Purple Heart, the</u>		
3.4	<u>American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,</u>		
3.5	<u>AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of</u>		
3.6	<u>America. This funding must be allocated in</u>		
3.7	<u>direct proportion to the funding currently</u>		
3.8	<u>being provided by the commissioner to these</u>		
3.9	<u>organizations.</u>		
3.10	<u>(c) Honor Guards. \$200,000 each year is for</u>		
3.11	<u>compensation for honor guards at the funerals</u>		
3.12	<u>of veterans under Minnesota Statutes, section</u>		
3.13	<u>197.231.</u>		
3.14	<u>(d) Minnesota GI Bill. \$200,000 each year is</u>		
3.15	<u>for the costs of administering the Minnesota</u>		

3.19 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
3.20 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
3.21 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.22 197.791.

3.23 (e) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
3.24 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
3.25 surviving family members of deceased
3.26 veterans.

3.27 (f) **County Veterans Service Office.**
3.28 \$1,610,000 each year is for the County
3.29 Veterans Service Office grant program under
3.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608. Of this
3.31 amount, \$20,000 is for a women veterans
3.32 technical assistance coordinator, \$20,000 is
3.33 for a veteran suicide prevention technical
3.34 assistance coordinator, and \$20,000 is for a
3.35 justice-involved veteran technical assistance
4.1 coordinator. Any unencumbered balance in
4.2 the first year does not cancel and is available
4.3 in the second year.

4.4 (g) **Camp Bliss.** \$150,000 each year is for a
4.5 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., to
4.6 provide therapy, transportation, and activities
4.7 customized for veterans who are Minnesota
4.8 residents and their spouses, domestic partners,
4.9 and children, at Camp Bliss in the city of
4.10 Walker. The commissioner of veterans affairs
4.11 must report to the chairs and ranking minority
4.12 members of the legislative committees with
4.13 jurisdiction over veterans affairs on:

4.14 (1) the number of veterans and veterans'
4.15 family members served; and

4.16 (2) a detailed explanation of expenditures of
4.17 the grant money.

3.16 GI Bill postsecondary educational benefits,
3.17 on-the-job training, and apprenticeship
3.18 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.19 197.791.

3.20 (e) **Gold Star Program.** \$100,000 each year
3.21 is for administering the Gold Star Program for
3.22 surviving family members of deceased
3.23 veterans.

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3.25 \$1,610,000 each year is for the County
3.26 Veterans Service Office grant program under
3.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.608. Of this
3.28 amount, \$20,000 is for a women veterans
3.29 technical assistance coordinator, \$20,000 is
3.30 for a veteran suicide prevention technical
3.31 assistance coordinator, and \$20,000 is for a
3.32 justice-involved veteran technical assistance
3.33 coordinator. Any unencumbered balance in
3.34 the first year does not cancel and is available
3.35 in the second year.

5.21 (l) **Camp Bliss.** \$1,000 the first year is for a
5.22 grant to Independent Lifestyles, Inc., to
5.23 provide therapy, transportation, and activities
5.24 customized for veterans who are Minnesota
5.25 residents and the veterans' spouses, domestic
5.26 partners, and children at Camp Bliss in the
5.27 city of Walker. The commissioner of veterans
5.28 affairs must report to the chairs and ranking
5.29 minority members of the legislative
5.30 committees with jurisdiction over veterans
5.31 affairs on:

5.32 (1) the number of veterans and veterans'
5.33 family members served; and

6.1 (2) a detailed explanation of expenditures of
6.2 the grant money.

4.1 (g) **Comprehensive Plan to Prevent Veteran**
4.2 **Suicides in Minnesota.** The commissioner
4.3 shall develop a comprehensive plan to prevent

4.18 (h) **Veteran Resilience Project.** \$140,000
4.19 each year is for a grant to the veteran resilience
4.20 project. Grant funds must be used to make eye
4.21 movement desensitization and reprocessing
4.22 therapy available to veterans, veterans'
4.23 spouses, current military service members,
4.24 and current military service members' spouses
4.25 who are suffering from posttraumatic stress
4.26 disorder and trauma.

4.4 Minnesota veterans from dying by suicide.
4.5 The plan must include:

4.6 (1) a community integration and collaboration
4.7 strategy that brings together veteran-serving
4.8 organizations to provide veterans with
4.9 coordinated services and supports, including
4.10 services and supports related to employment,
4.11 health, housing, benefits, recreation, education,
4.12 and social connections;

4.13 (2) strategies to promote a sense of belonging
4.14 and purpose among veterans by connecting
4.15 veterans with each other, with civilians, and
4.16 with the veteran's communities through a
4.17 range of activities, including physical activity,
4.18 community service, and disaster response
4.19 efforts; and

4.20 (3) an implementation strategy that identifies
4.21 opportunities to coordinate existing efforts
4.22 within federal, state, local, and Tribal
4.23 governments and nongovernmental entities
4.24 and includes a description of the policy
4.25 changes and resources that are required to
4.26 prevent veteran suicides.

4.27 The commissioner must submit a report
4.28 containing the required plan to the chairs and
4.29 ranking minority members of the legislative
4.30 committees with jurisdiction over veterans
4.31 affairs policy and finance by February 15,
4.32 2026.

4.27 The veteran resilience project must report to
4.28 the commissioner of veterans affairs and the
4.29 chairs and ranking minority members of the
4.30 legislative committees with jurisdiction over
4.31 veterans affairs policy and finance by January
4.32 15 of each year on the program. The report
4.33 must include an overview of the program's
4.34 budget, a detailed explanation of program
5.1 expenditures, the number of veterans and
5.2 service members served by the program, and
5.3 a list and explanation of the services provided
5.4 to program participants.

5.5 (i) CORE Program. \$1,225,000 each year is
5.6 for the Counseling and Case Management
5.7 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
5.8 program.

5.9 (j) LinkVet Call Center. \$369,000 each year
5.10 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call
5.11 Center.

5.12 (k) Recently Separated Veterans Program.
5.13 \$300,000 each year is for operation of the
5.14 recently separated veterans program. The
5.15 commissioner of veterans affairs may use
5.16 Department of Defense and other veteran data
5.17 that was provided with an appropriate
5.18 disclosure to assist with connecting veterans
5.19 to resources and new programming. The
5.20 commissioner may use money for personnel,
5.21 research, marketing, technology solutions, and
5.22 professional or technical contracts.

5.23 (l) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.
5.24 \$1,344,000 each year is to operate the
5.25 homeless veteran registry and homeless
5.26 programs and to assist veterans, former service
5.27 members, and veterans' and former service
5.28 members' dependents with obtaining federal
5.29 benefits through the Social Security
5.30 Administration. The commissioner of veterans
5.31 affairs may use money for personnel, training,

8.29 (s) CORE Program. \$1,475,000 each year is
8.30 for the Counseling and Case Management
8.31 Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)
8.32 program.

8.33 (t) LinkVet Call Center. \$369,000 each year
8.34 is for the operation of the state's LinkVet Call
8.35 Center.

9.1 (u) Recently Separated Veterans Program.
9.2 \$300,000 each year is for the operation of the
9.3 recently separated veterans program. The
9.4 commissioner of veterans affairs may use
9.5 Department of Defense and other veteran data
9.6 that was provided with an appropriate
9.7 disclosure to assist with connecting veterans
9.8 to resources and new programming. The
9.9 commissioner may use money for personnel,
9.10 research, marketing, technology solutions, and
9.11 professional or technical contracts.

4.33 (h) Homeless Veterans and SOAR Program.
4.34 \$1,394,000 each year is to operate the
5.1 homeless veteran registry and homeless
5.2 programs and to assist veterans, former service
5.3 members, and veterans' and former service
5.4 members' dependents with obtaining federal
5.5 benefits through the Social Security
5.6 Administration. The commissioner of veterans
5.7 affairs may use money for personnel, training,

5.32 research, marketing, and professional or
5.33 technical contracts.

6.1 (m) Minnesota Assistance Council for
6.2 Veterans. \$1,075,000 each year is for grants
6.3 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for
6.4 Veterans to provide assistance throughout
6.5 Minnesota to veterans and veterans' families
6.6 who are homeless or in danger of
6.7 homelessness, including assistance with:

6.8 (1) supportive services to maintain housing;

6.9 (2) employment;

6.10 (3) legal issues;

6.11 (4) housing and housing-related costs;

6.12 (5) transportation;

6.13 (6) the acquisition and creation of permanent
6.14 supportive housing; and

6.15 (7) property management of permanent
6.16 supportive housing.

6.17 Any unencumbered balance remaining in this
6.18 paragraph in the first year does not cancel and
6.19 is available for the second year. Assistance
6.20 authorized under this paragraph must be
6.21 provided only to a veteran who has resided in
6.22 Minnesota for 30 days prior to the veteran's

5.8 research, marketing, and professional or
5.9 technical contracts.

5.10 (i) State Soldiers Assistance Program.
5.11 \$5,600,000 each year is for veteran financial
5.12 assistance through the state soldiers assistance
5.13 program.

5.14 (j) Higher Education Veterans Assistance.
5.15 \$1,629,000 each year is for veterans higher
5.16 education assistance.

5.17 (k) Claims and Outreach Office. \$3,621,000
5.18 each year is for the claims and outreach office
5.19 to assist veterans and the veterans' families in
5.20 accessing benefits and services.

6.23 application for assistance and according to
6.24 other guidelines established by the
6.25 commissioner. To avoid duplication of
6.26 services, the commissioner must ensure that
6.27 this assistance is coordinated with all other
6.28 available programs for veterans.

6.3 **(m) Veterans of Secret Guerilla Units and**
6.4 **Irregular Forces in Laos Advisory Task**
6.5 **Force.** \$118,000 the first year is for the
6.6 commissioner to staff and support the work
6.7 of Veterans of Secret Guerilla Units and
6.8 Irregular Forces in Laos Advisory Task Force.

6.9 **(n) Metro Meals on Wheels.** \$250,000 each
6.10 year is for a grant to Metro Meals on Wheels
6.11 to provide: (1) home-delivered meals to
6.12 veterans; and (2) technical, enrollment,
6.13 outreach, and volunteer recruitment assistance
6.14 to member programs. Metro Meals on Wheels
6.15 must report to the commissioner of veterans
6.16 affairs and the chairs and ranking minority
6.17 members of the legislative committees with
6.18 jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and
6.19 finance by September 1 each year with a
6.20 detailed explanation of how the grant money
6.21 was used and the number of veterans and
6.22 service members served by the program. The
6.23 base for this appropriation is \$250,000 in fiscal
6.24 year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter.

6.25 **(o) Hometown Hero Outdoors.** \$1,000 the
6.26 first year is for a grant to Hometown Hero
6.27 Outdoors, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
6.28 based in Stillwater, Minnesota, to fund outdoor
6.29 recreational activities and mental health
6.30 services for currently serving military
6.31 personnel and veterans to promote positive
6.32 mental health and interactions with mental
6.33 health service professionals; to promote
6.34 longevity and quality of life through outdoor
6.35 activities and mental health services, including
7.1 public education; and to ensure that the

7.2 organization is able to continue supporting
7.3 persons who are currently serving or have
7.4 served in the military. Hometown Hero
7.5 Outdoors must report to the commissioner of
7.6 veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking
7.7 minority members of the legislative
7.8 committees with jurisdiction over veterans
7.9 affairs policy and finance no later than
7.10 September 1, 2026, and by September 1 of
7.11 each subsequent year. Each report must
7.12 include, at a minimum, a detailed explanation
7.13 of how the grant money was used and the
7.14 number of veterans served by the program.

7.15 (p) **Veterans on the Lake.** \$1,000 the first
7.16 year is for a grant to Veterans on the Lake for
7.17 expenses related to retreats for veterans,
7.18 including therapy, transportation, and activities
7.19 customized for veterans. Veterans on the Lake
7.20 must report to the commissioner of veterans
7.21 affairs and the chairs and ranking minority
7.22 members of the legislative committees with
7.23 jurisdiction over veterans affairs policy and
7.24 finance no later than September 1, 2026, and
7.25 by September 1 of each subsequent year. Each
7.26 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed
7.27 explanation of how the grant money was used
7.28 and the number of veterans served by the
7.29 program.

7.30 (q) **Fishing with Vets.** \$1,000 the first year is
7.31 for a grant to Fishing with Vets to organize
7.32 and conduct guided fishing trips for veterans
7.33 across Minnesota. Fishing with Vets must
7.34 report to the commissioner of veterans affairs
7.35 and the chairs and ranking minority members
8.1 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
8.2 over veterans affairs policy and finance no
8.3 later than September 1, 2026, and by
8.4 September 1 of each subsequent year. Each
8.5 report must include, at a minimum, a detailed
8.6 explanation of how the grant money was used

6.29 **(n) Minnesota Military and Veterans**
6.30 **Museum.** \$300,000 each year is for a grant to
6.31 the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum
6.32 for museum staff to provide direct services to
6.33 veterans and their families.

7.1 **(o) Veteran Homelessness Initiative.**
7.2 \$1,311,000 each year is for an initiative to
7.3 prevent and end veteran homelessness.

7.4 Subd. 3. **Veterans Health Care** 111,252,000 115,620,000

7.5 (a) \$110,302,000 the first year and
7.6 \$114,670,000 the second year may be
7.7 transferred to a veterans homes special
7.8 revenue account in the special revenue fund
7.9 in the same manner as other receipts are
7.10 deposited according to Minnesota Statutes,
7.11 section 198.34, and are appropriated to the
7.12 commissioner of veterans affairs for the
7.13 operation of veterans homes facilities and

8.7 and the number of veterans served by the
8.8 program.
8.9 **(r) Veteran Mentorship Program for Black**
8.10 **Youth.** \$1,000 the first year is for the
8.11 commissioner of veterans affairs to award a
8.12 grant to an organization to develop, operate,
8.13 and administer a veteran mentorship program
8.14 to prevent youth violence through employing
8.15 veterans who will mentor Black youth and
8.16 assisting Black youth in exploring career
8.17 opportunities in the armed forces. The grant
8.18 recipient must report to the commissioner of
8.19 veterans affairs and the chairs and ranking
8.20 minority members of the legislative
8.21 committees with jurisdiction over veterans
8.22 affairs policy and finance no later than
8.23 September 1, 2026, and by September 1 of
8.24 each subsequent year. Each report must
8.25 include, at a minimum, a detailed explanation
8.26 of how the grant money was used and the
8.27 number of veterans participating in the
8.28 program.

9.12 **(v) Minnesota Military and Veterans**
9.13 **Museum.** \$300,000 each year is for a grant to
9.14 the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum
9.15 for museum staff to provide direct services to
9.16 veterans and their families.

9.17 Subd. 3. **Veterans Health Care** 100,187,000 101,353,000

9.18 (a) \$98,137,000 the first year and \$99,303,000
9.19 the second year may be transferred to a
9.20 veterans homes special revenue account in the
9.21 special revenue fund in the same manner as
9.22 other receipts are deposited according to
9.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 198.34, and are
9.24 appropriated to the commissioner of veterans
9.25 affairs for the operation of veterans homes
9.26 facilities and programs. The base for this

7.14 programs. The base for this transfer is
7.15 \$119,100,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each
7.16 fiscal year thereafter.

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

7.26 (c) \$400,000 each year is for the department
7.27 to staff Veteran Community Health Navigators
7.28 in community-based hospitals.

7.29 (d) \$550,000 each year is for the department
7.30 to operate the veteran suicide prevention
7.31 program.

9.27 transfer is \$99,204,000 in fiscal year 2028 and
9.28 each fiscal year thereafter.

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

10.3 (c) \$400,000 each year is for the department
10.4 to staff Veteran Community Health Navigators
10.5 in community-based hospitals.

10.6 (d) \$1,650,000 each year is for the department
10.7 to operate the veteran suicide prevention
10.8 program.

10.9 (e) The commissioner of veterans affairs is
10.10 not required to perform the annual calculation
10.11 of the cost of care for veterans homes in
10.12 Montevideo, Preston, and Bemidji in the first
10.13 year and second year. In the first year and
10.14 second year, the commissioner must calculate
10.15 the average daily cost of care per resident by
10.16 averaging the cost of care of veterans homes
10.17 in Luverne and Fergus Falls. The
10.18 commissioner must only use this method of
10.19 calculating the cost of care of veterans homes
10.20 in the first year and second year. This
10.21 paragraph expires June 30, 2027.