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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 291

01/23/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans and Military Affairs Division

- 1.1A bill for an act
- 1.2relating to veterans; removing state veterans cemetery burial fee for spouses and
- 1.3dependents of eligible veterans; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes
- 1.42024, sections 190.19, subdivision 2a; 197.236, subdivision 9.
- 1.5BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:
- 1.7Subd. 2a. **Uses; veterans.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs
- 1.8from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account may be used for:
- 1.9(1) grants to veterans service organizations;
- 1.10(2) outreach to underserved veterans;
- 1.11(3) providing services and programs for veterans and their families;
- 1.12(4) transfers to the driver and vehicle services operating account for Gold Star license
- 1.13plates under section 168.1253;
- 1.14(5) grants of up to \$100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of
- 1.15veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their
- 1.16families;
- 1.17(6) grants to an eligible foundation; and
- 1.18(7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the
- 1.19commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant
- 1.20to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

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

2.3 (1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

2.4 (2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of  
2.5 incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance  
2.6 to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

2.7 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

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

2.12 ~~(b) Upon application, the commissioner may waive or reduce the burial fee for an indigent~~  
2.13 ~~eligible person. The commissioner shall develop a policy, eligibility standards, and~~  
2.14 ~~application form for requests to waive or reduce the burial fee to indigent eligible applicants.~~

2.15 ~~(c) No plot or interment fees may be charged for the burial of service members who die~~  
2.16 ~~on active duty or eligible veterans, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 101,~~  
2.17 ~~paragraph (2) eligible persons under subdivision 8.~~

2.18 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.19 \$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$..... in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general  
2.20 fund to the commissioner of veterans affairs for the uncompensated burial costs for eligible  
2.21 dependents to whom the commissioner grants a no-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries  
2.22 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 197.236, subdivision 9.