

**Senate Counsel, Research,  
and Fiscal Analysis**

G-17 STATE CAPITOL  
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**Senate**  

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**State of Minnesota**

**S.F. No. 467 - Relating to the Big Marine Park Reserve**

**Author:** Senator Michele M. Bachmann

**Prepared by:** Daniel P. McGowan, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

*DPM*

**Date:** March 2, 2005

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**Section 1** provides that the property occupied by the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington County is excluded from the Big Marine Park Reserve and as such is not subject to regulation as part of the Metropolitan Council's regional recreation open space system.

**Section 2** provides that any nonprofit camping facility serving veterans and their families would constitute a planned unit development district for purposes of county and municipal zoning.

**Section 3** makes the effective date the day following final enactment.

DPM:vs



1 Senator <sup>W. J. ...</sup> moves to amend the delete-everything  
2 amendment (JL14) to S.F. No. 467 as follows:

3 Page 3, line 33, before the period, insert "and an easement  
4 across the main Veterans Rest Camp Road in order to provide a  
5 connection of the north and south areas of the park"

*Wiger*

1 ..... moves to amend S. F. No. 467, as follows:

2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

3 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 88.44, is  
4 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

5 Subd. 2a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
6 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
7 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
8 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
9 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
10 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 2.

11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 103B.331, is  
12 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

13 Subd. 3a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
14 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
15 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
16 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
17 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
18 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 3.

19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 272.02, is  
20 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

21 Subd. 68. [CERTAIN RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR DISABLED  
22 VETERANS.] Real and personal property is exempt if it is located  
23 in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less  
24 than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit

1 organization, and primarily used to provide recreational  
2 opportunities for disabled veterans and their families.

3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 375.18, is  
4 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

5 Subd. 9a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
6 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
7 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
8 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
9 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
10 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 9.

11 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 376.55, is  
12 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

13 Subd. 2a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
14 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
15 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
16 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
17 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
18 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 2.

19 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 394.25, is  
20 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

21 Subd. 3d. [NONPROFIT RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR USE BY  
22 DISABLED VETERANS.] Property located in a county in the  
23 metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and  
24 owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and  
25 primarily used to provide recreational opportunities for  
26 disabled veterans and their families is a planned unit  
27 development district and a legal conforming use for purposes of  
28 zoning controls.

29 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 398.32, is  
30 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

31 Subd. 1a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
32 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
33 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
34 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
35 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
36 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 1.

1       Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 462.357, is  
2 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

3       Subd. 1g. [NONPROFIT RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR USE BY  
4 DISABLED VETERANS.] Property located in a county in the  
5 metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and  
6 owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and  
7 primarily used to provide recreational opportunities for  
8 disabled veterans and their families is a planned unit  
9 development district and legal conforming use for purposes of  
10 zoning controls.

11       Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 473.147, is  
12 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

13       Subd. 1a. [DISABLED VETERANS REST CAMP EXCLUDED FROM  
14 REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM.] Property occupied by  
15 the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington  
16 County is excluded from the regional recreational open space  
17 system.

18       Sec. 10. [RESTRICTIONS LIMITED.]

19       No county may take any action to encumber or restrict  
20 ingress or egress below levels permissible on January 1, 2005 to  
21 property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a  
22 population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
23 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
24 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
25 their families.

26       Sec. 11. [DISABLED VETERANS CAMP REQUIREMENTS.]

27       The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in  
28 Washington County ("The Camp") must continue to develop and  
29 promote camp features and amenities for veterans who are  
30 disabled or have limited physical capabilities. The Camp, by  
31 terms of separate agreement, must offer Washington County the  
32 right of first refusal to purchase the rest camp property if a  
33 sale is ever contemplated. The Camp shall modify its operating  
34 policies and procedures to include provisions for the regular  
35 rotation of the use of campsites, cabins, and parking spots for  
36 travel trailers, limiting the time that any one veteran can use

1 the cabin and campsites especially when there is a waiting list  
2 of veterans with service connected disabilities.

3       Sec. 12. [EFFECTIVE DATES.]

4       Section 3 is effective for assessment year 2005 and  
5 thereafter for taxes payable in 2006 and thereafter. Sections  
6 1, 2, and 4 through 11, are effective the day following final  
7 enactment."

8       Renumber the sections in sequence

9       Correct internal references

10       Amend the title accordingly

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# Senate

State of Minnesota

## **S.F. No. 406 - Establishing a Lottery Board (First Engrossment)**

**Author:** Senator Ann H. Rest

**Prepared by:** Thomas S. Bottem, Senate Counsel (651/296-3810) *TSB*

**Date:** March 2, 2005

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**Section 1** defines "board" to mean the State Lottery Board in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 349A.

### **Section 2 [Lottery Board.]**

**Subdivision 1** establishes a State Lottery Board with seven members appointed by the Governor.

**Subdivision 2 [Board Members.]** requires the board members to include:

- (1) an attorney licensed in this state;
- (2) a member with experience in marketing or advertising;
- (3) a licensed CPA who is a financial expert;
- (4) a member with management experience in retail; and
- (5) three members with experience in managing complex business enterprises or policy making experience in the public sector.

**Subdivision 3 [Terms; Compensation.]** requires that Minnesota Statutes, section 15.0575, governs removal and compensation of the board, and provides that board members must serve a three-year term.



**Subdivision 4 [Board Organization.]** requires the board to meet at least quarterly, and allows any meetings that relate to the lottery's security, information security, or to evaluate performance of the director to be closed to the public.

**Subdivision 5 [Board Responsibilities.]** requires the board to review the operation of the lottery and make recommendations to the director, including the following areas:

- (1) the annual budget of the lottery;
- (2) proposed lottery rules;
- (3) annual performance review of the director; and
- (4) the financial affairs of the lottery.

Also authorizes payment of the board's operating expenses from the lottery operations account.

**Section 3 [Payments Prohibited.]** prohibits a board member from accepting a lottery prize.

**Section 4 [Conflict of Interest.]** prohibits board members and any member of their immediate family from engaging in various activities that present a conflict of interest.

**Section 5 [Audit.]** requires the board to contract for an annual audit, which includes an audit of the lottery's information security. Currently, this responsibility lies with the Director of the Lottery.

**Section 6 [Appointment of Initial Lottery Board Members.]** requires three members of the initial board to serve a three-year term, two to serve a two-year term, and two to serve a one-year term.

**Section 7 [Effective Date.]** makes this act effective July 1, 2005.

TSB:rer

1                   A bill for an act  
2           relating to the state lottery; establishing a lottery  
3           board; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections  
4           349A.01, by adding a subdivision; 349A.08, subdivision  
5           7; 349A.11; 349A.14; proposing coding for new law in  
6           Minnesota Statutes, chapter 349A.

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

8           Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 349A.01, is  
9           amended by adding a subdivision to read:

10           Subd. 1a. [BOARD.] "Board" means the State Lottery Board.

11           Sec. 2. [349A.011] [LOTTERY BOARD.]

12           Subdivision 1. [ESTABLISHED.] There is created a State  
13 Lottery Board comprised of seven members appointed by the  
14 governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

15           Subd. 2. [BOARD MEMBERS.] Board members must be residents  
16 of Minnesota and at least three members must reside outside the  
17 Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. At least one member  
18 must be an attorney licensed to practice law in Minnesota, at  
19 least one member must have demonstrable experience in marketing  
20 or advertising, at least one member must be a licensed certified  
21 public accountant who is qualified as a financial expert, at  
22 least one member must have demonstrable management experience in  
23 retail business, and the remaining three members must have  
24 demonstrable experience in managing complex business enterprises  
25 or have policy making experience in the public sector. No  
26 person may be a member of the board who has been convicted of a

1 felony, a crime involving fraud or misrepresentation, or a  
2 gambling-related offense.

3 Subd. 3. [TERMS; COMPENSATION.] The terms, removal, and  
4 compensation of board members shall be as provided in section  
5 15.0575, except that board members shall serve a term of three  
6 years.

7 Subd. 4. [BOARD ORGANIZATION.] (a) The board shall elect  
8 from their membership a chair and vice-chair at the first  
9 meeting following the beginning of each fiscal year.

10 (b) The board shall meet at least quarterly or at such  
11 other times at the call of the chair of the board.

12 (c) Notwithstanding chapter 13D, meetings of the board or  
13 any committee of the board that relate to the lottery's  
14 security, information security, or to evaluate the performance  
15 of the director may be closed to the public.

16 (d) The operating expenses of the board relating to its  
17 responsibilities under subdivision 5 shall be paid by the  
18 lottery from the lottery operations account and must be publicly  
19 reported by the board.

20 Subd. 5. [BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES.] The board has the  
21 responsibility to review the overall operation and performance  
22 of the lottery and make recommendations to the director  
23 regarding the operation of the lottery including identifying  
24 potential improvements that will assist the lottery in  
25 maximizing proceeds to the state and ensuring the integrity and  
26 public confidence in the lottery. The responsibilities of the  
27 board include, but are not limited to:

28 (1) reviewing the annual budget of the lottery;

29 (2) reviewing proposed lottery rules;

30 (3) conducting an annual performance review of the  
31 director; and

32 (4) reviewing the financial affairs of the lottery.

33 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 349A.08,  
34 subdivision 7, is amended to read:

35 Subd. 7. [PAYMENTS PROHIBITED.] (a) No prize may be paid  
36 to the director or an employee of the lottery, member of the

1 board, or a member of their families residing in the same  
2 household of the member, director, or employee. No prize may be  
3 paid to an officer or employee of a vendor which at the time the  
4 game or drawing was being conducted was involved with providing  
5 goods or services to the lottery under a lottery procurement  
6 contract.

7 (b) No prize may be paid for a stolen, altered, or  
8 fraudulent ticket.

9 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 349A.11, is  
10 amended to read:

11 349A.11 [CONFLICT OF INTEREST.]

12 Subdivision 1. [LOTTERY TICKET; RETAILER.] The director,  
13 an employee of the lottery, a board member, a member of the  
14 immediate family of the director or, employee, or board member  
15 residing in the same household may not:

16 (1) purchase a lottery ticket; or

17 (2) have any personal pecuniary interest in any vendor  
18 holding a lottery procurement contract, or in any lottery  
19 retailer; or

20 (3) receive any gift, gratuity, or other thing of value,  
21 excluding food or beverage, from any lottery vendor or lottery  
22 retailer, or person applying to be a retailer or vendor, in  
23 excess of \$100 in any calendar year.

24 Subd. 2. [GIFTS.] The director or, an employee of the  
25 lottery in the unclassified service, or a board member may not  
26 accept a gift the acceptance of which by an official would be  
27 prohibited by section 10A.071.

28 Subd. 3. [PENALTY.] A violation of subdivision 1, clause  
29 (1), is a misdemeanor. A violation of subdivision 1, clause  
30 (2), is a gross misdemeanor. A violation of subdivision 1,  
31 clause (3), is a misdemeanor unless the gift, gratuity, or other  
32 item of value received has a value in excess of \$500, in which  
33 case a violation is a gross misdemeanor.

34 Subd. 4. [FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.] The director or, an  
35 unclassified employee of the lottery, or a board member may not,  
36 within two years of terminating employment with the lottery or

1 terminating membership on the board, represent any person,  
2 corporation, or entity before the lottery. A violation of  
3 this paragraph subdivision is a misdemeanor.

4 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 349A.14, is  
5 amended to read:

6 349A.14 [AUDIT.]

7 The ~~director~~ board shall contract for an annual certified  
8 audit of all accounts and transactions of the lottery, including  
9 but not limited to an audit of the lottery's information  
10 security. The audit must be conducted by a certified public  
11 accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting  
12 standards. The ~~director~~ board shall file a copy of each audit  
13 report of the lottery with the governor and, the legislature,  
14 and the director. The board shall cooperate fully with any  
15 audit, evaluation, or investigation initiated by the legislative  
16 auditor.

17 Sec. 6. [APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL LOTTERY BOARD MEMBERS.]

18 Of the initial members of the State Lottery Board, three  
19 shall serve a term of three years, two shall serve a term of two  
20 years, and two shall serve a term of one year. The governor  
21 shall select the initial chair of the board who shall serve as  
22 the chair until the board elects the chair.

23 Sec. 7. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

24 This act is effective July 1, 2005.

1 Senator <sup>Solom</sup> moves to amend S.F. No. 406 as follows:

2 Page 2, line 7, delete everything after "(a)" and insert  
3 "The governor shall select the chair of the board before"

4 Page 2, line 8, delete everything before "the"

5 Page 2, lines 13 and 14, delete "lottery's security,  
6 information security," and insert "security of games offered by  
7 the lottery"

8 Page 2, line 15, after the period, insert "The board must  
9 comply with the conditions under section 13D.05."

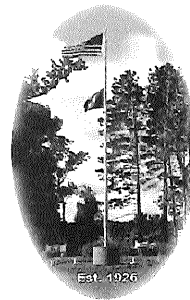
10 Page 2, after line 32, insert "The board shall present  
11 summaries of its reviews to the legislature."

12 Page 4, line 20, delete "The governor"

13 Page 4, delete lines 21 and 22

## Rest and Recreation parks for Veterans Owned by Veterans

- Big Island on Lake Minnetonka
  - Closed , in process of selling land
- Disabled Veterans Rest Camp
  - Priority service to Veterans with disabilities
  - Open to all Veterans, Families, and guests
- Veterans on the Lake
  - 255 miles north of the cities



## Primary Supporters of the DVRC

- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- American Legion





## “The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp”

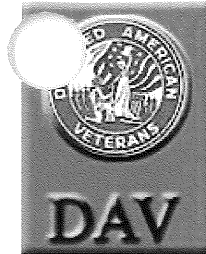
Established in 1926 on the shores of the beautiful Big Marine Lake just 30 minutes NE of downtown St Paul. For over 75 years, it has been a very special retreat for those who bore the burdens of war, both on the front lines and in support of our soldiers, sailors and airmen. In short, this is a **Veterans Only** retreat.

The name “Rest Camp” comes from the early years when disabled Veterans came here for much needed rest and relaxation. Today, we are a non-profit camping facility dedicated to Veterans **and their families** which include the unmarried widows/widowers of Veterans and active duty/reserve forces now in service to our nation. We have 79 RV sites, 12 cabins and acres of space for tenting.

With the everyday stresses of our hectic world, “The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp” is an irreplaceable and very affordable asset to enjoy and share with those we love and care about most....**our families !**

## “The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp”

is governed by a 16 member *volunteer* Board of Directors with representatives from :



### The Disabled American Veterans



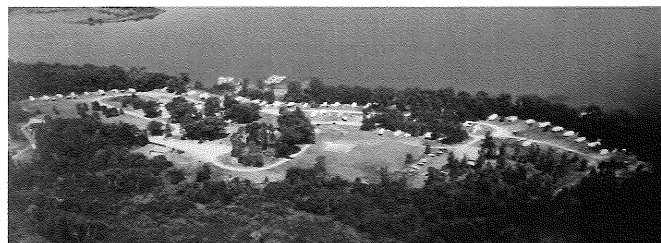
### The Veterans of Foreign Wars



### The American Legion

and Representatives from the Ramsey and Washington County Boards

We are a 501 (c) Non-Profit facility and we depend on contributions to upgrade the facility and help keep us going. As you can see from the picture below, this is one asset that we can be very proud of !



As “**The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp**” moves into our **next 75** years of operations, The Board of Directors invite you to come join us for a day, a week or however long you wish! We have vacationing and seasonal patrons that return year after year, enjoying the camaraderie that only we, **as a family of Veterans**, can uniquely share and hold so dear. The original intent of the founders of this facility was to provide R & I for those who served this great nation in uniform, during times of war and peace. We take great pride in celebrating the freedoms and sacrifices secured by these Veterans in our many celebrations during the summer months, including:

**Memorial Day, Flag Retirement Ceremonies and the Fourth of July Day Parade and Picnic**

and the many other get togethers that we host for many of the American Legion and V.F.W. Posts from across the area. We are **proud** to have served our country and we take pride in sharing our stories and experiences with each other in an atmosphere of **relaxation and fellowship**.

We wish to thank our many sponsors:

Outdoor Heritage Education Center (wheelchair port)  
 Boy Scouts of America (beach project)  
 Camp Volunteers (electrical upgrade)  
 Telephone Pioneers of America (handicap projects)  
 the DAV, VFW and American Legion Posts  
 across Minnesota who donated the funding that made our recent upgrades and renewal projects possible.

Sincerely

**Your DVRC Board of Directors**



## **Disabled Veterans Rest Camp** **Mission Statement**

Administer and furnish relief and welfare services as well as to provide certain recreational facilities to men and women who have served or are presently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to the immediate families of said men and women as defined under current Veterans Administration guidelines, with priority given to disabled Veterans, Veterans in good standing, active duty Veterans, and the un-remarried widows or widowers of deceased Veterans, in that order.

## **Community organizations that use the DVRC routinely**

- **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**
- **Minnesota Veterans Hospital**
- **Minnesota Veterans Homes**
- **Military Reserve and Guard Units**
- **Boy Scouts “Eagle Projects”**
- **Point Man Ministries**

## **Reasons for Realignment and Zoning**

- **Security from condemnation and eminent domain**
- **Development of existing property**
  - **Obtain permits to achieve ADA standards**
- **Ability to obtain loans and Grants**

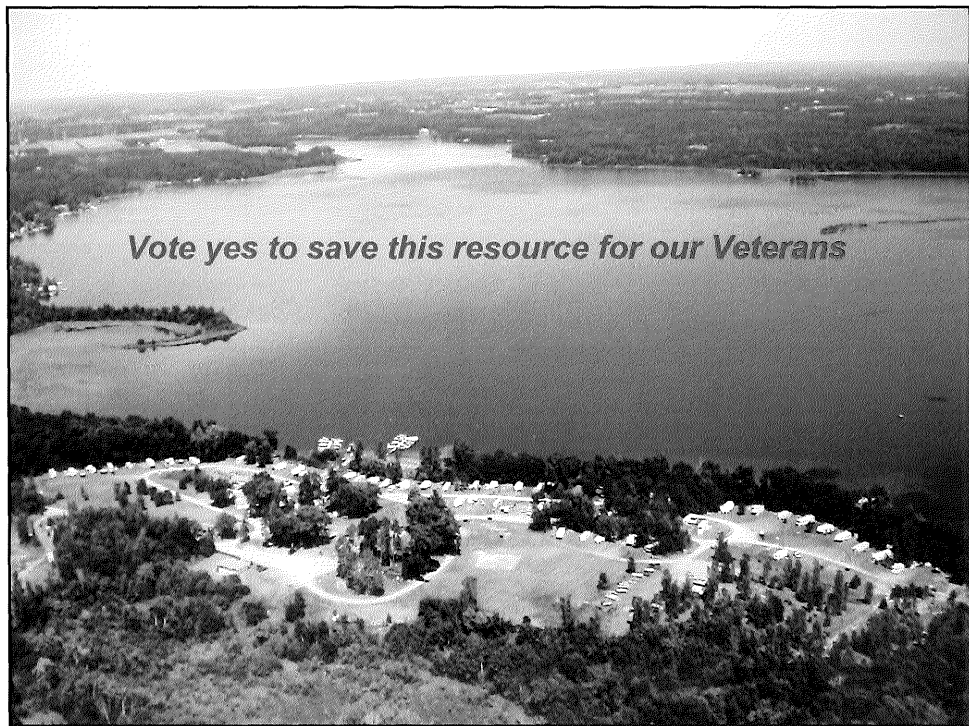
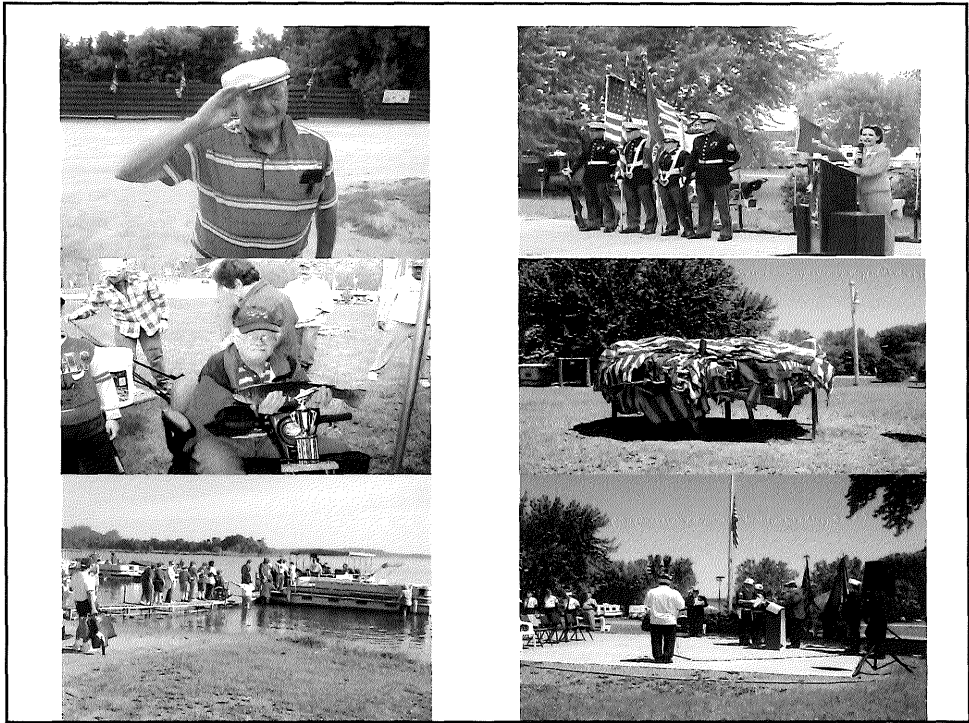


## **DVRC expansion**

- **Ten Year plan**
  - **Build new ADA shower and storm shelter**
  - **Develop the back 39 acres**
  - **Add new trailer sites**
  - **Add new cabins**
  - **Increase tenting options**
  - **Remodel existing cabins to ADA standards**
  - **Build pavilions for social events out of the weather**

## **Reasons to Preserve the Camp for Veterans Only**

- **Numbers of veterans using the camp has increased by 20 % per year since 2000**
- **Number of Veterans returning with Service connected disabilities grows daily**
- **Vets with disabilities used to be primarily from active duty, now the Reserves and Guard members are the primary affected Veterans**



665 30

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 2****SUBJECT: VETS CAMPGROUNDS AT BIG MARINE, WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**WHEREAS:** The 69 acre, Vets Campgrounds at Big Marine, Washington County, was established after WWI for the sole benefit of veterans and dependents; and

**WHEREAS:** Veterans from all over the state of Minnesota and other states do enjoy and use the existing campground and other facilities, including fishing and riding on their own, handicapped pontoon boat, especially equipped for wheel chair access and other handicaps; and

**WHEREAS:** Veterans who might otherwise be living in the street or other shelters have found refuge in these facilities for camping, trailers and cabins, some for many years; and

**WHEREAS:** This hallowed campground is supported by donations from all veteran organizations at no cost to taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS:** This recreational camp is needed by all veterans, those brave women and men who gave all their efforts to defend the freedom of all citizens of our great county; and

**WHEREAS:** Washington County Parks Commission has been purchasing other lands to make another county park; and

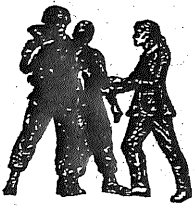
**WHEREAS:** Washington County Board of Commissioners has already acquired 612 acres and has plans to acquire more in the next five years, which would include all or part of this same Vets Camp; and

**WHEREAS:** The Vets Camp provides a service for Veterans and their dependents and changing or selling this camp to make a county park would disrupt the good services to the veterans who earned the right to have this wonderful facility; and

**WHEREAS:** Many AFL-CIO Brothers and Sisters are veterans and can enjoy this great camp; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the 44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Convention of the Minnesota AFL-CIO go on record to maintain the financial independence of this Vets Camp in Washington County and to support any and all legislation to keep the camp operated by the veterans and their dependents; and, be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Minnesota AFL-CIO oppose any and all attempts to force or coerce the camp to compromise their independence in any way.



# MACV Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

*Serving Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Throughout Minnesota*

Price of Freedom®  
Studios, Inc.

February 16, 2005

Senate File # 467 ----1.1 to 1.23 posted on 1/20/2005  
House File # 34-----1.1 to 1.23 posted on 1/6/2005

Dear Representative Vandevveer

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is a 501-c-3 nonprofit whose mission is stated at the bottom of this letter. We work with veterans in Minnesota who are experiencing homelessness.


This work requires many varied resources for us to complete our mission. Healthcare, housing, employment, continuing mental health and sober support systems as well as developing new leisure time activities and recreational opportunities for the veterans we serve.

It requires a lot of different organizations that understands the veterans needs as well as our organizations mission to have successful outcomes for this population.

The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake is one of these organizations that enhance our productivity. We have used the camp in varied and uncomplicated ways to complete our mission. We have used them to house veterans on short-term notice until we can get them into our program. We have held annual clean up and set-up for docks and grounds by having our participants volunteer for this. Volunteering is one of our ways we promote our veterans to give back to the community. For the past two years and this coming year we have used the camp to host our charity bass tournament which has been an excellent choice for us and the participants. Recreational opportunities that we can afford are sometimes hard to come by and at the camp we are always welcome and accommodated which we deeply appreciate. It would be a great loss and shame for this camp to come under the direction of the "Big Marine Park Reserve".

We ask that you champion the legislature to exclude the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp from Big Marine Park Reserve as stated in the above noted House and Senate files.

Sincerely,

  
Jimmie L. Coulthard  
President/CEO

*OUR MISSION IS: To provide/ coordinate preventive, transitional and permanent housing and supportive services for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or who are in danger of becoming homeless and who are motivated towards positive change.*

VAMC Building 47 One Veterans Drive Minneapolis, MN 55417 tel.612.726.9375 fax.612.726.1138  
macv@citilink.com www.mac-v.org

## Board of Directors

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*Rosemary Hartman*  
Hazelden

**Vice Chairman**  
*Paul W Bergstrom*  
Attorney at Law

**Treasurer**  
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*Dennis Forsberg*  
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*Mary Erickson*  
LTC US Army Reserves

*Edwin C Culbert, Jr.*  
USAF (Ret)

*Thomas Dunne*  
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*Donald R Allen*  
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*sborg*  
Ret, Chaplain

*Aggs*  
MSNPA

*Fred Rudolph*  
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Certified Massage Therapist  
*Tom Mullon*

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Founding President

*Edward Zimmerman*  
*Jim Kulsrud*  
*Raymond Bonnabeau, Jr*  
Major General, MC, AUS (Ret)  
MD, PhD

## Advisors

### Veterans Outreach

**Veterans Outreach**  
*Meuro/Twin Cities*  
VAMC Building 47  
One Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
tel 612.726.1327  
612.725.2082

### Veterans Outreach

**North/Duluth**  
101 West 2nd Street, Suite 102  
Duluth, MN 55802  
tel 218.722.8763  
fax 218.727.9358  
von@cpinternet.com

### Veterans Outreach

**South/Mankato**  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2090  
Mankato, MN 56001  
tel 507.345.8258  
fax 507.345.8292  
vos@gotocrystal.net



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

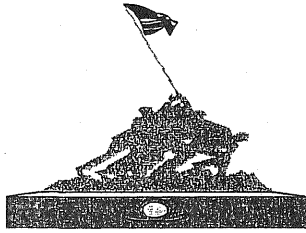
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*Life member DAV; member American Legion (Forest Lake #225); life member NCOA; member AmVets;  
member Marine Corps Association and League; member Veterans of Foreign Wars (Forest Lake #4210); Metro  
Marines;*

*Member of the Minnesota Stand Down Board of Directors  
DAV (Department) Liaison Rep – Minnesota Veterans Home Board*

February 15, 2005

**Ray Vandev eer (R) 52A**  
529 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Preservation of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington  
County

Dear Representative Vandev eer:

I write to you in an honest and faithful effort to seek your continued support on the bills you and your constituents have recently authored and introduced regarding the preservation of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp under H.F. 34 and S.F. 467. Unfortunately, this camp has been under constant scrutiny and political debate by local county officials since about 1987 along with their efforts to acquire this camp for the Big Marine Park Reserve.

The manner and way in which our local county officials have recently subjected this camp to by way of a barrage of “political punches” has given our veterans a black eye they don’t deserve. The gesture in and of itself displays a sense of greed and unfairness to the very veteran that wore a uniform in one of our uniformed services to defend the very freedoms we have all too often taken for granted. Sadly enough, some of the very officials involved are veterans themselves. This is not the way we should treat our veterans and this is not the way we attempt to force a perceived hostile takeover of a non-profit resort camp that has been and continues to serve as the ultimate retreat for our veterans since 1926.

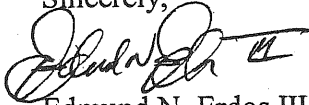
You have always supported our veterans and their causes and it is for this reason I hope you continue for the push to preserve this camp for the very purpose it was intended for. I graciously commend you and your staff for your efforts in supporting our veterans and their causes.



These men and women will always have a special place in our hearts and all of us know they made an exceptional sacrifice to protect our freedom and our way of life. Why must this be taken away from them? It is only fitting; appropriate, and proper that we recognize them for this very sacrifice by helping to sustain and maintain a place of respite and retreat which provides them with peace and tranquility. I am very certain you feel as I do. I sincerely thank you for your understanding and time, but more importantly, thank you for your continued support of our troops and veterans. Your tireless and dedicated efforts in supporting our veterans are truly noticeable and highly commendable.

In closing, I have enclosed an article I wrote in 2001 regarding this very same issue. If you find the time, the contents of this article is very fitting to this very issue and it represents my personal feeling, as I'm sure it also represents the feelings of many of our veterans. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund N. Erdos III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund N. Erdos III

Enclosure

ENE:ene

# Keep Veteran's Rest Camp as it is

EDMUND ERDOS  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I recently read an article on the Veteran's Rest Camp and their fight to keep the camp. I wholeheartedly understand their concerns as I am a past member of the board of directors (Disabled American Veterans Representative - 1995) and former manager (1995 - 2000). Furthermore, I am in total agreement with the Camp's decision to turn down any attempt or offer by the county to acquire land for their county park.

Since its inception in 1926, this camp has established a long history and reputation for providing the ultimate retreat for those of us who served this grateful nation of ours. The camp is not only a retreat for those who have served; it is also a camp that provides healing and therapy to the many who continue to suffer from the horrific memories of war.

Our government, from the federal level right down to the smallest unit of government, must understand that they have an obligation to care for its veterans. That includes preserving the rights and benefits they so rightfully deserve for service to their country.

I am a 60-percent disabled Marine Corps veteran of almost 14 years active service (1979-1993), and during my tenure as manager of the camp, I have fought tooth and nail to ensure its preservation and I made sure that everyone and their uncle heard and knew about it.

The camp is one of three nonprofit camps within the state of Minnesota, dedicated to providing low-cost recreation and an atmosphere consisting of peace and tranquility to our veterans, with priority given to our disabled veterans. It may not be much to others (like some of our local gov-

ernment officials), but to some of our veterans, it's all they have.

I would only hope that those government officials who are veterans, become well read on this opinion as it concerns the very men and women they served with. I would also hope that our non-veteran government officials understand the full scope and intent of this opinion, but more importantly, to understand that the concern is very true and genuine.

Although today I do not manage the camp, I have built a lasting friendship with everyone who resides at the camp. Veterans develop a unique sense of camaraderie and have a special bond between and amongst each other that is different from the rest of us. Why reduce or take away what they have or so rightfully deserve?

Veteran's issues have always been the subject of some type of political debate or controversy in our government. Honestly, there should never be any compromise or debate when it comes to our veterans. I've defended God, Country and Corps for almost 14 years of my life.

I am still serving America with my memberships in the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, to name just a few. I give of myself back to the community, but more importantly, I give of myself to my brothers and sisters who wore a uniform to protect our freedom and way of life.

Sacrifices, we gave many. Must we sacrifice anymore?

Why am I so strong on veteran's issues? I am also in my fourth year as a very active board member to the Minnesota standout program, a program dedicated to helping our homeless and needy veterans. We always hear about the plight of homelessness in our country. However, did you know

that out of all the homeless people in America, approximately 250,000 are veterans? It's very sad, but true.

Some of you may have recently read and heard in the media about Minnesota StandDown. It is a program that is very near and dear to my heart and it is one that is dedicated to giving our veterans a helping hand so that they may live productive and fruitful lives. Every year, the 3½-day program is conducted on the U of M (West Campus) and assists over 1000 veterans and dependents with food, clothing, shelter and various other quality of life issues.

We (StandDown) set up a mini-city of tents on a ball field directly across from the Law Building of the U of M (West Campus). During this short time, veterans with needs and issues get to visit over 65 tents that provide various services, whether it be from federal, state or local government, or from a nonprofit agency or organization. It points them in the right direction.

To put this in perspective with my opinion, like StandDown, the Veteran's Rest Camp is a nonprofit organization that has been operating since 1926 to provide a service to our veterans. They've been there for over 75 years providing this service. Like everything else our veterans fought for, it should not be compromised for any reason.

As great as this country is, we should not have any homelessness, especially within the veteran community. More importantly, we should not take away or reduce their benefits. They have earned their right to seek and keep the benefits they have. Remember, without veterans "there is no USA!"

WRITER EDMUND N. ERDOS LIVES IN WYOMING.



# Disabled American Veterans

Chapter #2

1133 Rankin Street

St. Paul, MN 55116-3141

February 16, 2005

**Representative Ray Vandever (R) 52A**

529 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Preservation of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in  
Washington County

Dear Representative Vandever:

We write to you on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans (a congressionally chartered veterans organization), representing all of our members throughout the state of Minnesota in an effort to seek your continued support on the bills you and your constituents have recently authored, introduced, and wholeheartedly support regarding the preservation of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake under H.F. 34 and S.F. 467 in its original state.

Our Department Headquarters introduced and unanimously approved a resolution (copy attached) on the subject matter at our 2004 spring convention in Willmar, which was subsequently forwarded to our National Headquarters for their approval and concurrence. Having received unanimous approval at all echelons of this organization, we are submitting this resolution to you to show that we continue to support the preservation of this camp in its entirety, and we support the original concept of having this camp operate as a bona fide non-profit resort camp dedicated to our troops and veterans. The camp is now operated as a non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors consisting of members from our various veterans' organizations. It is our sincere hope that this camp will be able to continuously operate in this manner without any interference from county officials or other third parties, all of who have already threatened to acquire this land through eminent domain or other means for purposes of creating the Big Marine Park Reserve.


This Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans originally started this camp back in 1926 as a camp for our injured and ill veterans who returned home after the war to recover and recuperate. To this day, the camp has operated in relatively the same sense

in that it now provides a place of peace and tranquility for our veterans, with priority given to our disabled veterans.

We are continuously fighting on a daily basis to preserve our rights and benefits that we feel we rightfully deserve for our service to this great country of ours. We find it difficult to even preserve our own dignity and pride because of various governmental actions and decisions at all levels of government that have historically shown various levels of reductions or depletions in our benefits. Especially those who are veterans themselves, our benefits and rights should never be compromised at any level of government.

We want to sincerely express our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your tireless devotion to our veterans and their causes. We know that you, your staff, and several of your constituents have dedicated an enormous amount of time to ensure our veterans and troops are looked after. It is your dedication and devotion to our veterans' causes that sets you aside from the rest and we thank you. Please ensure you pass our thanks and appreciation to Representatives Mike Charron and Karen Klinzing and to Senators Michelle Bachman and Chuck Wiger.

Sincerely,



Charlie Makidon, Commander



Edmund N. Erdos, Adjutant

Enclosure

ENE:ene



# Disabled American Veterans

Chapter #2

1133 Rankin Street  
St. Paul, MN 55116-3141

April 5, 2004

Disabled American Veterans  
Department of Minnesota, Incorporated  
State Veterans Service Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

WHEREAS, the Veterans Rest Camp located on Big Marine Lake in northern Washington County in the State of Minnesota, was originally founded by the Disabled American Veterans of the City of St. Paul in 1926.

WHEREAS, that since its inception, this camp has established a very long history and reputation for providing the ultimate retreat for those who donned a uniform and served and/or fought for this grateful nation of ours.

WHEREAS, this camp is one of three non-profit camps of this type in this state, dedicated to providing low-cost recreation in addition to an atmosphere consisting of peace and tranquility, with priority given to our disabled veterans, many of which consider this camp their refuge, their place of healing, their chance to recover and recuperate, and perhaps someday, justify their honor and courage for having defended this nation of ours and the very freedoms we so often take for granted today.

WHEREAS, veterans from all over the state of Minnesota and from all over this country, do enjoy and have continued to enjoy the use of this facility for their recreational needs and this

facility, in cooperation with various veterans organizations, has provided a place of recreation for *all* veterans and their dependents, and more specifically, our disabled veterans, by giving them a place to fish and camp and otherwise enjoy the serenity of the outdoors, a priceless commodity for many.

WHEREAS, the revenues that support this hallowed campground are generated from its operation and donations from all veterans organizations, businesses and individuals, with absolutely no costs being borne by the taxpayer. This recreational camp is needed by all veterans - the very brave men and women who gave all their efforts, blood, sweat and tears, and some, even the ultimate sacrifice, to defend the freedom of all citizens of this country, and throughout the world.

WHEREAS, the very land this camp encompasses, has for many years been the subject of constant political debate and scrutiny by our local government officials, but more specifically, the numerous attempts of the Washington County Parks Commission and members of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, to negotiate acquisition of this land and to make it a part of the Big Marine Park Reserve. That the Veterans Rest Camp provides an invaluable service to our veterans and their dependents and any attempts to acquire this land for purposes of creating this park reserve, would grossly disrupt the services this camp provides to this elite group of citizens, who so graciously earned the right to keep and sustain this facility for their very own use and pleasure and at no time should the very existence of this camp ever be compromised for any reason.

WHEREAS, our government, from the federal level, right down to the smallest unit of local government, must understand that they have a duty and obligation to care for its veterans,

which includes preserving and sustaining the very rights and benefits they have so rightfully earned and deserve for service to this country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Chapter #2 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in the City of St. Paul in the state of Minnesota, opposes any and all attempts by the County of Washington to negotiate or compromise the acquisition of any part of the land, whether in whole or in part, for purposes of creating the Big Marine Park Reserve. That Chapter #2 requests to officially have it entered on record that it also supports the creation and adoption of future state legislation to be enacted for purposes of sustaining and maintaining this very camp for use by our veterans and their dependents and that this camp continue to operate under the scope and premise it was originally intended for since its inception, and that they continue to be allowed to operate independently as a non-profit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Buie, Chapter #2 Commander

Edmund Erdos, Chapter #2 Adjutant

ENE:ene

**American Legion Post 39  
2678 7<sup>th</sup> Street East  
North Saint Paul, MN 55109**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE  
DISABLED VETERANS REST CAMP OF MINNESOTA**

**WHEREAS, The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp has provided a place for rest and relaxation to Minnesota's Veterans since 1926; and**

**WHEREAS, the Camp is facing liquidation by members of the Washington County Board of Commissioners; and**

**WHEREAS, the camp is the last facility of it's type in the Great State of Minnesota dedicated solely to veterans, their families, and un-remarried widows of veterans; and**

**WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the military veterans, their un-remarried widows, and their families to keep the camp open and operational now and in the future; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, by Post No. 39, The American Legion Department of Minnesota, in Regular Meeting assembled in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, February 10, 2005, that the American Legion Department of Minnesota strongly support the continued operation of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp located on Big Marine Lake, and exercise any and all efforts as Legionnaires and citizens do accomplish this goal.**

**THOMAS TROST  
Commander**

**MARVIN OSTRUM  
Adjutant**



1 Senator Higgins from the Committee on State and Local  
2 Government Operations, to which was referred

3 S.F. No. 467: A bill for an act relating to local  
4 government; excluding certain facilities from the Big Marine  
5 Park Reserve; providing for planned unit development zoning  
6 classification for certain facilities.

7 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill  
8 be amended as follows:

9 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

10 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 88.44, is  
11 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

12 Subd. 2a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
13 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
14 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
15 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
16 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
17 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 2.

18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 103B.331, is  
19 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

20 Subd. 3a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
21 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
22 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
23 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
24 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
25 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 3.

26 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 272.02, is  
27 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

28 Subd. 68. [CERTAIN RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR DISABLED  
29 VETERANS.] Real and personal property is exempt if it is located  
30 in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less  
31 than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit  
32 organization, and primarily used to provide recreational  
33 opportunities for disabled veterans and their families.

34 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 375.18, is  
35 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

36 Subd. 9a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
37 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
38 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and

1 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
2 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
3 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 9.

4 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 376.55, is  
5 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

6 Subd. 2a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
7 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
8 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
9 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
10 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
11 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 2.

12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 394.25, is  
13 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

14 Subd. 3d. [NONPROFIT RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR USE BY  
15 DISABLED VETERANS.] Property located in a county in the  
16 metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and  
17 owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and  
18 primarily used to provide recreational opportunities for  
19 disabled veterans and their families is a planned unit  
20 development district and a legal conforming use for purposes of  
21 zoning controls.

22 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 398.32, is  
23 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

24 Subd. 1a. [LIMITATION ON CONDEMNATION.] No county may  
25 acquire property located in a county in the metropolitan area  
26 with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
27 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
28 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
29 their families, by condemnation pursuant to subdivision 1.

30 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 462.357, is  
31 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

32 Subd. 1g. [NONPROFIT RECREATIONAL PROPERTY FOR USE BY  
33 DISABLED VETERANS.] Property located in a county in the  
34 metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and  
35 owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and  
36 primarily used to provide recreational opportunities for

1 disabled veterans and their families is a planned unit  
2 development district and legal conforming use for purposes of  
3 zoning controls.

4 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 473.147, is  
5 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

6 Subd. 1a. [DISABLED VETERANS REST CAMP EXCLUDED FROM  
7 REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM.] Property occupied by  
8 the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington  
9 County is excluded from the regional recreational open space  
10 system.

11 Sec. 10. [RESTRICTIONS LIMITED.]

12 No county may take any action to encumber or restrict  
13 ingress or egress below levels permissible on January 1, 2005,  
14 to property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a  
15 population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and  
16 operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to  
17 provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and  
18 their families.

19 Sec. 11. [DISABLED VETERANS CAMP REQUIREMENTS.]

20 The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in  
21 Washington County ("The Camp") must continue to develop and  
22 promote camp features and amenities for veterans who are  
23 disabled or have limited physical capabilities. The Camp, by  
24 terms of separate agreement, must offer Washington County the  
25 right of first refusal to purchase the rest camp property if a  
26 sale is ever contemplated and provide an easement across the  
27 main Veterans Rest Camp Road in order to provide a connection of  
28 the north and south areas of the park. The Camp shall modify  
29 its operating policies and procedures to include provisions for  
30 the regular rotation of the use of campsites, cabins, and  
31 parking spots for travel trailers, limiting the time that any  
32 one veteran can use the cabin and campsites especially when  
33 there is a waiting list of veterans with service connected  
34 disabilities.

35 Sec. 12. [EFFECTIVE DATES.]

36 Section 3 is effective for assessment year 2005 and

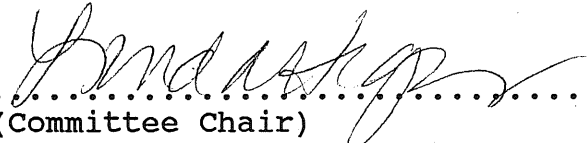
1 thereafter for taxes payable in 2006 and thereafter. Sections  
2 1, 2, and 4 to 11, are effective the day following final  
3 enactment."

4 Delete the title and insert:

5 "A bill for an act relating to local government; exempting  
6 certain property from condemnation proceedings; designating  
7 certain property as a conforming planned unit development for  
8 purposes of county zoning controls; providing tax-exempt status  
9 for certain real and personal property used for recreational  
10 purposes; excluding certain recreational property from the  
11 metropolitan regional open space system; prohibiting a county  
12 from restricting access to and from certain recreational  
13 property; requiring certain duties of the disabled veterans rest  
14 camp in Washington County; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004,  
15 sections 88.44, by adding a subdivision; 103B.331, by adding a  
16 subdivision; 272.02, by adding a subdivision; 375.18, by adding  
17 a subdivision; 376.55, by adding a subdivision; 394.25, by  
18 adding a subdivision; 398.32, by adding a subdivision; 462.357,  
19 by adding a subdivision; 473.147, by adding a subdivision."

20 And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to  
21 the Committee on Judiciary. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.

22

  
.....  
(Committee Chair)

23  
24  
25  
26  
27

March 2, 2005.....  
(Date of Committee recommendation)

1 Senator Higgins from the Committee on State and Local  
2 Government Operations, to which was re-referred

3 S.F. No. 406: A bill for an act relating to the state  
4 lottery; establishing a lottery board; amending Minnesota  
5 Statutes 2004, sections 349A.01, by adding a subdivision;  
6 349A.08, subdivision 7; 349A.11; 349A.14; proposing coding for  
7 new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 349A.

8 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill  
9 be amended as follows:

10 Page 2, line 7, delete everything after "(a)" and insert  
11 "The governor shall select the chair of the board before"

12 Page 2, line 8, delete everything before "the"

13 Page 2, lines 13 and 14, delete "lottery's security,  
14 information security," and insert "security of games offered by  
15 the lottery"

16 Page 2, line 15, after the period, insert "The board must  
17 comply with the conditions under section 13D.05."

18 Page 2, after line 32, insert "The board shall present  
19 summaries of its reviews to the legislature."

20 Page 4, line 20, delete "The governor"

21 Page 4, delete lines 21 and 22

22 And when so amended the bill do pass. Amendments adopted.  
23 Report adopted.

24 .....  
25 (Committee Chair)

26  
27 March 2, 2005.....  
28 (Date of Committee recommendation)