

## **S.F. No. 2247 – Budget establishment for the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veteran Affairs (1<sup>st</sup> engrossment)**

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### **Article 1 Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs**

Article 1 contains appropriations.

### **Article 2 Veterans Affairs Statutory Changes**

**Section 1 197.79, subd 1** expands the definition of the term “resident veteran” for the purposes of the Veterans Bonus Program. Among other requirements, current law requires that Minnesota be the veteran’s home of record when entering active duty. This requirement is stricken.

**Section 2 197.79, subd 2** adds the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal to the list of medals for which a veteran may receive a bonus. The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal may be awarded to members of the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard for service in Iraq, Syria, or contiguous waters or airspace.

**Section 3 197.79, subd 11** allows for reapplication of a bonus if the veteran was denied or entitled to a larger bonus than awarded.

**Sections 4, 5 and 6 (197.791)** amend the Minnesota GI Bill Program

**Section 4** allows part-time students to receive the same benefits as full-time students based on individual need. This section also increases the amount of postsecondary educational assistance, from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year, and increases the lifetime cap from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

**Sections 5 and 6** make conforming changes related to the increase in the lifetime cap in section 4.

**Section 7** makes veterans' spouses and current military service members' spouses eligible for therapy through the Veterans Resilience project.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.