

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1959 as follows:

1.2 Page 11, after line 29, insert:

1.3 "Sec. 6. [197.448] VETERAN OF THE SECRET WAR IN LAOS.

1.4 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** As used in this section, the term "veteran of the secret war
1.5 in Laos" means a person who resides in this state and who:

1.6 (1) was naturalized as provided in section 2(1) of the federal Hmong Veterans'
1.7 Naturalization Act of 2000, Public Law 106-207, or received a Medal of Honor, Purple
1.8 Heart, or other military award for service in support of the armed forces of the United States
1.9 in Laos; or

1.10 (2) is a person who the commissioner of veterans affairs determines served honorably
1.11 with a special guerrilla unit or with irregular forces that operated from a base in Laos in
1.12 support of the armed forces of the United States at any time during the period beginning
1.13 February 28, 1961, and ending May 14, 1975, and is a citizen of the United States or an
1.14 alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Eligibility for benefits and privileges.** (a) A veteran of the secret war in Laos,
1.16 as defined in subdivision 1, clause (1), is entitled to the benefits and privileges listed in
1.17 paragraph (c) the day following the effective date of this act.

1.18 (b) A veteran of the secret war in Laos, as defined in subdivision 1, clause (2), is entitled
1.19 to the benefits and privileges listed in paragraph (c) after the commissioner verifies the
1.20 person's veteran status. By March 30, 2026, the commissioner must:

1.21 (1) adopt criteria and a protocol to determine eligibility under subdivision 1, clause (2),
1.22 based upon the recommendations of the Veterans of Secret Guerilla Units and Irregular
1.23 Forces in Laos Advisory Task Force; and

1.24 (2) begin accepting applications for verification.

1.25 (c) The following statutory benefits and privileges available to a veteran, as defined in
1.26 section 197.447, are also available to a veteran of the secret war in Laos: section 171.07,
1.27 subdivision 15 (veteran designation on drivers' licenses and state identification cards);
1.28 section 197.23 (purchase of grave markers); section 197.231 (honor guards); section 197.236
1.29 (state veterans cemeteries); section 197.455 (veterans preference); section 197.4551
1.30 (permissive preference for veterans in private employment); section 197.55 (quarters for
1.31 meetings of veterans organizations); section 197.56 (use of quarters); 197.63 (vital records,

certified copies); section 197.65 (renewal of professional license, motor vehicle registration, and driver's license); and section 197.987 (honor and remember flag)."

Page 19, after line 16, insert:

"Sec. 11. ADVISORY TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED; VETERANS OF SECRET GUERRILLA UNITS AND IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.

Subdivision 1. Establishment; membership. (a) The commissioner of veterans affairs shall establish a Veterans of Secret Guerilla Units and Irregular Forces in Laos Advisory Task Force.

(b) The advisory task force shall consist of the commissioner, or a designee, and the following additional 13 members appointed by the commissioner, except as otherwise provided:

(1) a representative of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by the United States Commissioner of Veterans Affairs;

(2) a representative of the Minnesota Commanders Task Force designated by the Commanders Task Force;

(3) a representative of the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota;

(4) a United States armed forces veteran who served on active duty in Vietnam during the Vietnam War;

(5) a Hmong American Minnesota resident who served in the United States armed forces;

(6) two veterans of a secret guerilla unit or irregular forces in Laos;

(7) a historian knowledgeable about the secret guerilla units and irregular forces in Laos;

(8) a representative of the Minnesota Military Museum who has knowledge of the Vietnam War designated by the museum's director; and

(9) four legislators, with the speaker of the house, the house DFL leader, the senate majority leader, and the senate minority leader appointing one member each.

Subd. 2. Duties; report. (a) The task force must establish criteria for determining which Minnesotans served in the secret guerrilla units or with irregular forces in Laos.

(b) By February 15, 2026, the task force must deliver a report to the commissioner that includes the findings, criteria, protocol, and recommendations required under paragraph

(a).

3.1 Subd. 3. **Administration; terms of membership.** The commissioner shall convene the
3.2 first meeting of the advisory task force by August 15, 2025, and provide staff support to
3.3 the advisory task force. The provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision
3.4 6, shall govern the terms and removal of members of the advisory task force. Members of
3.5 the task force serve without compensation or per diem.

3.6 Subd. 4. **Expiration.** The task force expires on February 15, 2026."

3.7 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

3.8 Amend the title accordingly