



Joint House/Senate Subcommittee on Claims

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To: Rep. Duane Quam, Rep. Luke Frederick, Sen. Jim Carlson, and Sen. Doron Clark

From: Jason F. Kuenle, Subcommittee Legal Co-Counsel

Date: May 6, 2025

Re: Summary of 2025 claims amendment

The annual claims bill for 2025 was introduced in the Senate as S.F. 3446, and in the House as H.F. 3247. After the subcommittee meeting on May 6, 2025, identical author's amendments have been prepared for each body.

The 2025 claims bill appropriates a total of \$72,381.11. The subcommittee approved one claim under the Imprisonment and Exoneration Remedies Act (Minnesota Statutes sections 611.362 to 611.368).

- \$65,000 to the **Vincent Beaulieu Estate**. Mr. Beaulieu pleaded guilty to 5th degree controlled substance possession. Later lab results found that the substance in his possession was not a controlled substance. The county attorney moved to vacate the conviction. Claimant spent 246 days in prison. Claimant passed away after his release, and his mother was appointed the personal representative for his estate. The state and the personal representative of the estate have a signed affidavit agreeing that the appropriation be made to the estate of the claimant.

The remaining claims in the bill relate to personal injury claims against the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

- \$849.86 to reimburse the DOC for claims under \$7000 and other claims already paid by the department between April of 2023 and April of 2025 for injuries under the community work service or sentence-to-service programs. There were 2 of these claims.
- \$6,531.25 to **Victor Lynch** for permanent injuries to his left hand while performing assigned duties at MCF – Stillwater. Mr. Lynch's wrist was lacerated by a metal strap on the bundle of wood he was carrying. The laceration caused varying degrees of sensory loss in the four fingers on his left hand even after reparative surgery. Mr. Lynch had previous sensory damage from a preexisting injury. When the rating for the previous injury is subtracted from his current sensory capacity, the result equals a 6.875% worker's compensation rating, or \$6,531.25.

Under Minnesota Statutes 270A.03, Subd. 7, payments made in the annual claims bill are subject to revenue recapture (e.g. for debts to the state and other governmental entities, and for restitution).