

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 388

(SENATE AUTHORS: LIESKE, Wesenberg, Lang, Duckworth and Hoffman)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/21/2025	126	Introduction and first reading Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2

relating to veterans; removing state veterans cemetery burial fee for spouses and

1.3

dependents of eligible veterans; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes

1.4

2024, sections 190.19, subdivision 2a; 197.236, subdivision 9.

1.5

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

1.6

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

1.7

Subd. 2a. **Uses; veterans.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs

1.8

from 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

1.13

plates under section 168.1253;

1.14

(5) grants of up to \$100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of

1.15

veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their

1.16

families;

1.17

(6) grants to an eligible foundation; and

1.18

(7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the

1.19

commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant

1.20

to section 197.236, subdivision 9, ~~paragraph (b).~~

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

- (1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- (2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

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