

H.F. No. 1937 – Conference Committee Report for the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veteran Affairs (S.F. 2247) and Chapter 38

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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 modifies the definition of the term “resident veteran” for the purposes of the Veterans Bonus Program. The requirement that Minnesota be the veteran’s home of record when entering active duty 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.

Section 8 establishes the veteran domiciliary resident quality of care working group to review and analyze the acuity of domiciliary residents and the current care model, and make recommendations to ensure the standard of care and staffing levels are sufficient for the different resident acuity levels in the domiciliary. The report is due January 15, 2024.

Section 9 establishes eligibility and reimbursement requirements for the Camp Bliss program.

Section 10 relates to the cost of care calculation for the new veterans homes in Montevideo, Preston, and Bemidji. Specifies how the commissioner of veterans affairs must calculate the cost of care in fiscal year 2024 and 2025.