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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 5473

05/15/2024

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy

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; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section  
1.4 197.236, subdivision 9; Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 190.19,  
1.5 subdivision 2a.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 190.19, subdivision 2a, is amended  
1.8 to read:

1.9 Subd. 2a. **Uses; veterans.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
1.10 from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account may be used for:

1.11 (1) grants to veterans service organizations;

1.12 (2) outreach to underserved veterans;

1.13 (3) providing services and programs for veterans and their families;

1.14 (4) transfers to the driver and vehicle services operating account for Gold Star license  
1.15 plates under section 168.1253;

1.16 (5) grants of up to \$100,000 to any organization approved by the commissioner of  
1.17 veterans affairs for the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their  
1.18 families;

1.19 (6) grants to an eligible foundation; and

1.20 (7) the agency's uncompensated burial costs for eligible dependents to whom the  
1.21 commissioner grants a no-fee or reduced-fee burial in the state's veteran cemeteries pursuant  
1.22 to section 197.236, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

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

2.3 (1) is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

2.4 (2) is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the organization's articles of  
2.5 incorporation specify that a purpose of the organization includes: (i) providing assistance  
2.6 to veterans and their families; or (ii) enhancing the lives of veterans and their families.

2.7 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 197.236, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

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

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

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