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# HOUSE FILE No. 3981

## *FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT*

March 11, 2008

Authored by Juhnke, Kahn, Finstad, DeLaForest and Magnus  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

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*Referred by Chair to Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division.*

March 26, 2008

*Returned to the Committee on Finance as Amended.*

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to appropriations; appropriating money for veterans affairs, military  
1.3 affairs, and the Board of Animal Health; reducing and adjusting appropriations  
1.4 for agriculture; providing for disposition of certain funds; discontinuing  
1.5 certain ethanol producer payments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006,  
1.6 sections 168.1255, by adding a subdivision; 190.19, subdivision 1, by adding a  
1.7 subdivision; Laws 2007, chapter 45, article 2, section 1.

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

### ARTICLE 1

#### APPROPRIATIONS

1.11 Section 1. **SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.12 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are added to or, if shown  
1.13 in parentheses, subtracted from the appropriations in Laws 2007, chapter 45, articles 1 to  
1.14 3, to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from  
1.15 the general fund or another named fund and are available for the fiscal years indicated for  
1.16 each purpose. The figures "2008" and "2009" used in this article mean that the addition  
1.17 to or subtraction from the appropriation listed under them is available for the fiscal year  
1.18 ending June 30, 2008, or June 30, 2009, respectively. Supplemental appropriations and  
1.19 reductions to appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, are effective the  
1.20 day following final enactment.

		<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
		<b><u>Available for the Year</u></b>	
		<b><u>Ending June 30</u></b>	
		<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
1.21			
1.22			
1.23			
1.24			
1.25	Sec. 2. <b><u>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (200,000)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,143,000</u></b>

2.1 \$302,000 is a reduction in fiscal year 2009.  
2.2 The commissioner shall make a reduction  
2.3 of \$100,000 from agricultural marketing,  
2.4 \$100,000 shall come from efficiencies gained  
2.5 by the merger of the Agriculture Resources  
2.6 Management and Development Division and  
2.7 the Agriculture Finance Division, and the  
2.8 remainder shall come from a reduction in  
2.9 administrative services.

2.10 \$2,385,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for grants  
2.11 to livestock producers via the livestock  
2.12 investment grant program in Minnesota  
2.13 Statutes, section 17.118, if enacted. This is a  
2.14 onetime appropriation and is available until  
2.15 spent.

2.16 The \$200,000 appropriation in Laws 2007,  
2.17 chapter 45, article 1, section 3, subdivision  
2.18 4, for a grant to the Elk River Economic  
2.19 Development Authority for a bioenergy  
2.20 project is canceled to the general fund.

2.21 \$60,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for a grant  
2.22 to the Washington Center for Internships  
2.23 and Academic Seminars. The center must  
2.24 use the funds for an agricultural renewable  
2.25 energy internship pilot program that awards  
2.26 scholarships to students enrolling in a  
2.27 Minnesota four-year college or university  
2.28 beginning in the spring semester of 2009.  
2.29 This appropriation must be matched  
2.30 two-to-one by funding from the United  
2.31 States Department of Agriculture. The center  
2.32 must work with Minnesota colleges and  
2.33 universities and the Minnesota Department  
2.34 of Agriculture to achieve racial, ethnic,  
2.35 and gender diversity, as well as rural-urban

3.1 balance among scholarship recipients,  
 3.2 and must award the scholarships to  
 3.3 Minnesota students who are economically  
 3.4 disadvantaged, who demonstrate need  
 3.5 of financial assistance, and who are  
 3.6 underrepresented in higher education. This  
 3.7 is a onetime appropriation.

3.8 \$310,000 is a reduction in fiscal year 2009  
 3.9 of the appropriation for ethanol producer  
 3.10 payments in Laws 2007, chapter 45, article  
 3.11 1, section 3, subdivision 2. This reduction  
 3.12 is onetime only.

3.13 \$310,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for increased  
 3.14 ground water monitoring activities. This  
 3.15 appropriation is onetime only.

3.16 **Sec. 3. BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH                    \$                    472,000 \$                    2,562,000**

3.17 For monitoring, testing, eradication,  
 3.18 education, and outreach, and other activities  
 3.19 the board is required to undertake to  
 3.20 comply with federal regulations concerning  
 3.21 cattle, bison, goats, and farmed cervidae  
 3.22 under a USDA modified accredited status.

3.23 \$2,252,000 is added to the base in each of  
 3.24 fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

3.25 Up to \$12,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for  
 3.26 a onetime grant to a beef cattle producer  
 3.27 located outside of a bovine tuberculosis  
 3.28 containment area who purchased certified  
 3.29 tuberculosis-free cattle yet sustained financial  
 3.30 losses beyond the producer's control due to  
 3.31 restrictions imposed by the Board of Animal  
 3.32 Health that effectively denied the producer  
 3.33 the ability to sell the tuberculosis-free  
 3.34 cattle during favorable market conditions.



5.1 By January 15, 2009, the commissioner shall  
5.2 report to the chair and ranking minority  
5.3 member of each committee in the senate and  
5.4 house of representatives with jurisdiction  
5.5 over the policy and finance of veterans affairs  
5.6 regarding activities and expenditures under  
5.7 this program during fiscal years 2008 and  
5.8 2009, including an explanation of the role of  
5.9 staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs in  
5.10 administering this program.

5.11 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for casework  
5.12 services for veterans. The commissioner,  
5.13 in consultation with the Department of  
5.14 Administration, shall use the request for  
5.15 proposal process in Minnesota Statutes,  
5.16 chapter 16C, to solicit bids for the provision  
5.17 of these services. The casework services  
5.18 provided should be community-based,  
5.19 available statewide, and include in-home  
5.20 counseling.

5.21 By January 15, 2009, the commissioner shall  
5.22 report to the chair and ranking minority  
5.23 member of each committee in the senate and  
5.24 house of representatives with jurisdiction  
5.25 over the policy and finance of veterans affairs  
5.26 regarding activities and expenditures under  
5.27 this program during fiscal years 2008 and  
5.28 2009.

5.29 \$220,000 in fiscal year 2009 is added to  
5.30 the base for operations of the LinkVET  
5.31 telephone line service for veterans.

5.32 For purposes of efficiency, the commissioner  
5.33 must combine the services available through  
5.34 the toll-free higher education call center

6.1 for veterans with those available through  
6.2 LinkVET.

6.3 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2009 is added to  
6.4 the base for the Veterans Claims Office for  
6.5 outreach and training to improve services  
6.6 and benefits to veterans. This appropriation  
6.7 includes money to add a female veterans  
6.8 service officer/coordinator position.

6.9 \$50,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for designing  
6.10 a treatment program for veterans with  
6.11 traumatic brain injuries within the state  
6.12 veterans homes. By January 15, 2009, the  
6.13 commissioner must report to the chair and  
6.14 ranking minority member of each committee  
6.15 in the senate and house of representatives  
6.16 with jurisdiction over the policy and finance  
6.17 of veterans affairs regarding the requirements  
6.18 and feasibility of implementing this program  
6.19 within existing and future veterans homes.  
6.20 This is a onetime appropriation.

6.21 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2009 is added to the  
6.22 base for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance  
6.23 Council for Veterans for their work in  
6.24 helping veterans and their families affected  
6.25 by homelessness.

6.26 By January 15, 2009, the commissioner shall  
6.27 report to the chair and ranking minority  
6.28 member of each committee in the senate and  
6.29 house of representatives with jurisdiction  
6.30 over the policy and finance of veterans affairs  
6.31 regarding activities and expenditures under  
6.32 this program during fiscal years 2008 and  
6.33 2009.

6.34 \$200,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for:

7.1 (1) an intergovernmental and veterans  
7.2 strategic planning study for the Minnesota  
7.3 veterans homes, with special emphasis  
7.4 on exploring alternative models for the  
7.5 Minneapolis veterans home; and  
7.6 (2) a study of the feasibility of partnering  
7.7 for home-based services for veterans with  
7.8 nongovernmental, nonprofit, or faith-based  
7.9 social service and health care delivery  
7.10 organizations, as a means of enabling  
7.11 veterans to live more independently, as an  
7.12 alternative to the projected sharply increasing  
7.13 needs for domiciliary and skilled nursing  
7.14 beds in state veterans homes. This is a  
7.15 onetime appropriation.

7.16 No staff may be hired for or allocated to  
7.17 any new veterans cemetery without explicit  
7.18 legislative approval.

7.19 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
7.20 16A.62, on June 30, 2008, all money in  
7.21 the permanent trust account in the special  
7.22 revenue fund of the state veterans cemetery  
7.23 must be transferred to the permanent  
7.24 development and maintenance account in  
7.25 that fund.

7.26 \$1,000,000 is a reduction in fiscal year 2009  
7.27 for the Veterans Homes Board. The base  
7.28 appropriation for fiscal years 2010 and 2011  
7.29 is reduced by \$1,320,000 in each year. This  
7.30 reduction is made possible by the enhanced  
7.31 efficiency in administration of the homes  
7.32 associated with the transfer of governing  
7.33 authority from the Veterans Homes Board to  
7.34 the commissioner of veterans affairs.

8.1 \$600,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for the state  
8.2 GI bill program in Minnesota Statutes,  
8.3 section 197.791. The base for this program is  
8.4 increased by \$800,000 in each of fiscal years  
8.5 2010 and 2011.

8.6 \$5,250,000 in fiscal year 2008 and  
8.7 \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 are reductions  
8.8 from the appropriation made in Laws 2007,  
8.9 chapter 144, article 1, section 7. The base for  
8.10 the program in fiscal year 2010 is reduced by  
8.11 \$4,500,000.

8.12 \$100,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for a grant  
8.13 to the Minnesota Ambulance Association  
8.14 to implement a veterans paramedic  
8.15 apprenticeship program for the purpose of  
8.16 reintegrating qualified returning military  
8.17 medics into Minnesota's workforce in the  
8.18 field of paramedic and emergency services.  
8.19 This is a onetime appropriation.

8.20 \$25,000 in fiscal year 2009 is to develop a  
8.21 pilot program for peer-to-peer counseling  
8.22 among combat veterans. This is a onetime  
8.23 appropriation.

8.24 By January 15, 2009, the commissioner shall  
8.25 report to the chair and ranking minority  
8.26 member of each committee in the senate and  
8.27 house of representatives with jurisdiction  
8.28 over the policy and finance of veterans affairs  
8.29 regarding activities and expenditures under  
8.30 this program.

8.31 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for  
8.32 improvements to the medication distribution  
8.33 system in the Minnesota veterans homes.  
8.34 This is a onetime appropriation.

9.1 By January 15, 2009, the commissioner shall  
 9.2 report to the chair and ranking minority  
 9.3 member of each committee in the senate and  
 9.4 house of representatives with jurisdiction  
 9.5 over the policy and finance of veterans affairs  
 9.6 regarding activities and expenditures under  
 9.7 this program, including an explanation of the  
 9.8 role of staff of the Department of Veterans  
 9.9 Affairs in administering this program.

9.10 \$338,000 is a reduction in fiscal year  
 9.11 2009 from the special revenue fund  
 9.12 appropriation from the account established  
 9.13 in Minnesota Statutes, section 190.19. The  
 9.14 base appropriation in fiscal years 2010 and  
 9.15 2011 is \$0.

9.16	<b><u>Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT</u></b>			
9.17	<b><u>AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>
			<b><u>1,000,000</u></b>	

9.18 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for military  
 9.19 reservist economic injury loans under  
 9.20 Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.996, if  
 9.21 enacted.

9.22 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2009 is for  
 9.23 expenditures related to dislocated workers  
 9.24 who are eligible veterans under Minnesota  
 9.25 Statutes, section 116L.17, subdivision 1,  
 9.26 paragraph (c), clause (6), if enacted.

**ARTICLE 2**

**RELATED PROVISIONS**

9.29 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 168.1255, is amended by adding a  
 9.30 subdivision to read:

9.31 Subd. 6. **World War II memorial donation match account.** Money remaining  
 9.32 in the World War II memorial donation match account after the state share of the  
 9.33 construction costs of the World War II memorial has been paid in full is appropriated to the  
 9.34 commissioner of veterans affairs for services and programs for veterans and their families.

10.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 190.19, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

10.2 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account is  
10.3 established in the special revenue fund. The account shall consist of contributions from  
10.4 private sources and appropriations. Money in the account is appropriated in equal shares  
10.5 to the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Notwithstanding Laws 2007, chapter 45, articles 2, section 1,  
10.7 and 3, section 2, subdivision 3, this section is effective for distribution of the Minnesota  
10.8 "Support Our Troops" account the day following final enactment.

10.9 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 190.19, is amended by adding a subdivision  
10.10 to read:

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

10.13 (1) grants to veterans service organizations; and

10.14 (2) outreach to underserved veterans.

10.15 Sec. 4. Laws 2007, chapter 45, article 2, section 1, is amended to read:

10.16 Section 1. **VETERANS AFFAIRS** \$ 12,855,000 \$ 12,571,000

10.17	Appropriations by Fund		
10.18		2008	2009
10.19	General	12,517,000	12,233,000
10.20	Special Revenue	338,000	338,000

10.21 (a) \$1,000,000 each year is added to the  
10.22 base for state soldier's assistance under  
10.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.05. If the  
10.24 appropriation for this purpose for either year  
10.25 is insufficient, the appropriation for the other  
10.26 year is available for it.

10.27 (b) \$750,000 the first year and \$750,000  
10.28 the second year are added to the base for  
10.29 grants to counties under the terms of this  
10.30 section. The commissioner shall issue a  
10.31 request for proposals for grants to enhance  
10.32 the benefits, programs, and services provided  
10.33 to veterans. The request must specify that

11.1 priority will be given to proposals that meet  
11.2 the programmatic goals established by the  
11.3 commissioner, including proposals that will:  
11.4 (1) provide the most effective outreach to  
11.5 veterans;  
11.6 (2) reintegrate combat veterans into society;  
11.7 (3) collaborate with other social service  
11.8 agencies, educational institutions, and other  
11.9 relevant community resources;  
11.10 (4) reduce homelessness among veterans;  
11.11 and  
11.12 (5) provide measurable outcomes.

11.13 The commissioner may provide incentives  
11.14 to encourage, and may give priority to  
11.15 proposals that foster, regional collaboration  
11.16 for service delivery. The grants may be for a  
11.17 term of up to two years. The commissioner  
11.18 shall ensure that grants are made throughout  
11.19 all regions of the state and shall develop a  
11.20 description of best practices for the use of  
11.21 these grants. A county may not reduce its  
11.22 county veterans service officer budget by any  
11.23 amount received as a grant under this section.  
11.24 Grants made under this section are in addition  
11.25 to and not subject to the requirements for  
11.26 grants made under Minnesota Statutes,  
11.27 section 197.608. The Minnesota Association  
11.28 of County Veterans Service Officers may  
11.29 apply for grants under this section beginning  
11.30 July 1, 2007. Any balance remaining after  
11.31 the first year does not cancel and is available  
11.32 in the second year. This appropriation must  
11.33 be included in the appropriation base through  
11.34 fiscal year 2011.

- 12.1 (c) \$750,000 each year is for tribal veterans  
12.2 services offices.
- 12.3 (d) \$750,000 each year is for a grant to the  
12.4 Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.  
12.5 This is a onetime appropriation.
- 12.6 (e) \$200,000 each year is for marketing  
12.7 veterans outreach programs. This is a  
12.8 onetime appropriation.
- 12.9 (f) \$250,000 each year is added to the base  
12.10 for grants to Disabled American Veterans,  
12.11 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans  
12.12 of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of  
12.13 America, and other congressionally chartered  
12.14 veterans service organizations designated by  
12.15 the commissioner.
- 12.16 (g) \$450,000 the first year and \$450,000  
12.17 the second year are for the higher education  
12.18 veterans assistance program under Minnesota  
12.19 Statutes, section 197.585. This appropriation  
12.20 must be included in the agency appropriation  
12.21 base through fiscal year 2011.
- 12.22 (h) \$100,000 each year is for information  
12.23 technology.
- 12.24 (i) \$75,000 each year is for operations at the  
12.25 Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little  
12.26 Falls.
- 12.27 (j) \$250,000 each year is for administration  
12.28 of veterans programming. This appropriation  
12.29 includes money for the biennium for  
12.30 an ombudsman for residents and family  
12.31 members of residents at the Minneapolis  
12.32 Veterans' Home. The ombudsman must  
12.33 attend all meetings of the Veterans Homes  
12.34 Board and provide a report at each

- 13.1 meeting regarding the status of concerns
- 13.2 communicated to the ombudsman.
- 13.3 (k) \$100,000 each year is for compensation
- 13.4 for honor guards at the funerals of veterans
- 13.5 in accordance with the program established
- 13.6 in Minnesota Statutes, section 197.231. This
- 13.7 is a onetime appropriation.
- 13.8 (l) \$52,000 the first year is for spousal
- 13.9 education benefits in accordance with
- 13.10 Minnesota Statutes, section 197.75. This
- 13.11 appropriation is available until June 30, 2009.
- 13.12 (m) \$100,000 each year is for information
- 13.13 and outreach regarding the availability of
- 13.14 depleted uranium testing. The commissioner
- 13.15 shall collaborate with the adjutant general
- 13.16 to identify service members and veterans
- 13.17 who may have been exposed to expended
- 13.18 depleted uranium and to provide them with
- 13.19 information regarding depleted uranium
- 13.20 screening services provided by the federal
- 13.21 government. This is a onetime appropriation.
- 13.22 (n) \$250,000 the first year is for grants to
- 13.23 assist World War II veterans in attending the
- 13.24 dedication of the Minnesota World War II
- 13.25 Memorial in St. Paul on June 9, 2007, and for
- 13.26 other expenses of the dedication event. The
- 13.27 commissioner may spend only that portion
- 13.28 of this sum for which a matching amount,
- 13.29 whether in cash or in kind, is donated by
- 13.30 nongovernmental sources for this purpose.
- 13.31 This appropriation is available immediately.
- 13.32 (o) \$80,000 the first year is for suicide
- 13.33 prevention and psychological support for
- 13.34 veterans. Of this amount, \$50,000 is for a
- 13.35 study by the commissioner and the adjutant

14.1 general of the psychological status and  
14.2 needs of returning Minnesota veterans,  
14.3 and \$30,000 is for a telephone hotline to  
14.4 refer veterans to available psychological  
14.5 counseling services. The commissioner  
14.6 may use this appropriation to supplement  
14.7 an existing informational hotline service  
14.8 within the department, or may collaborate  
14.9 with any other provider of compatible,  
14.10 existing hotline services for this purpose.  
14.11 The referral hotline must be available to  
14.12 veterans statewide at all practicable hours.  
14.13 The commissioner must broadly publicize  
14.14 the availability of the telephone hotline  
14.15 and any local, state, and federal counseling  
14.16 services for Minnesota veterans using all  
14.17 practicable means available, including but  
14.18 not limited to: the agency Web site; local  
14.19 media announcements; announcements in  
14.20 service and trade publications; and any other  
14.21 practical means of communication.

14.22 The commissioner may spend up to two  
14.23 percent of this appropriation for development  
14.24 of special informational materials, such  
14.25 as refrigerator magnets, wallet cards, and  
14.26 other devices on which hotline numbers  
14.27 may be kept for immediate use. The  
14.28 commissioner also may accept and spend  
14.29 other contributions from nongovernmental  
14.30 sources for this purpose. This is a onetime  
14.31 appropriation.

14.32 (p) \$338,000 each year is from the account  
14.33 in the special revenue fund established in  
14.34 Minnesota Statutes, section 190.19, for (1)  
14.35 grants to veterans service organizations; and  
14.36 (2) outreach to underserved veterans. Any

- 15.1 balance in the first year does not cancel and  
15.2 is available in the second year.

15.3 **Sec. 5. DISCONTINUATION OF ETHANOL PRODUCER PAYMENTS.**

- 15.4 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the commissioner of agriculture shall  
15.5 discontinue payments under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.09, including deficiency  
15.6 payments, to any ethanol producer that ceased operations and declared bankruptcy in 2004.