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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION**

HOUSE FILE No. 1996

March 23, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to veterans; requiring provision of alcohol and chemical dependency
1.3 counseling services to recently discharged veterans; proposing coding for new
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 197.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[197.792] ALCOHOL AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**
1.7 **COUNSELING.**

1.8 The commissioner shall make available alcohol and other chemical dependency
1.9 counseling services to any veteran of any branch or unit of the United States armed forces,
1.10 upon the person's separation or discharge from active military service and for up to 18
1.11 months following the person's separation or discharge.

1.12 Counseling services are deemed to be available to a person if the person is eligible to
1.13 obtain those services in a reasonably accessible manner and without cost from the United
1.14 States Department of Veterans Affairs, or through TriCare or another military medical
1.15 program, provided that the commissioner has made significant efforts to inform eligible
1.16 veterans of the availability of those services, including procedures for obtaining them.

1.17 "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447.

1.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009.