

Minnesota Commanders' Task Force

2017 Legislative Agenda



The Minnesota Commanders' Task Force (CTF) is comprised of the state leadership of nine congressionally-chartered veterans' service organizations.

- American Legion
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Jewish War Veterans
- Marine Corps League
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Vietnam Veterans of America

CTF is dedicated to serving Minnesota's more than 350,000 Veterans and their families through the unified development and support of legislative initiatives aimed at improving the lives of Veterans, their families and communities.

The CTF Commanders & Adjutants unanimously support the following legislation, and urge Minnesota's Legislature to pass—and Governor Dayton to enact—these important initiatives.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs - Agency Budget & Capital Investment Funding

HF1080/SF798

State Government Finance Bills include the Governor's **biennial budget** recommendations for the **Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**.

HF892/SF640

Capital investments bills which include funding for the **repair of the historic truss bridge** at the Minnesota Veterans Home – Minneapolis as well as support critical **asset preservation** projects on the Minnesota Veterans Home campuses.

Free Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses for 50% Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

HF888/SF723

CTF supports the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' biennial budget** request which includes a reduction in the threshold level of disability rating from the current 100% down to 50% for Veterans to be eligible for free deer hunting, trapping, small game and lifetime fishing licenses.

Permanent Homestead Market Value Exclusion for Eligible Surviving Spouses of Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

HF119/SF84

Extends the existing homestead market value exclusion to a permanent exemption for an eligible Veteran's surviving spouse and **allows for a surviving spouse of an eligible Veterans to apply for the homestead market value exclusion** following the death of that Veteran.

Minnesota GI Bill Amended & Uses Expanded

HF1080/SF798

State Government Finance Bills include amending the Minnesota GI Bill to improve equity between the Apprenticeship & On-the-Job-Training (OJT) program and the higher education benefit funding and **adding the use of the MN GI Bill to pay for costs such as school applications, exams, licensing, and other certifications**.

Modification of Tax Credit for Past Military Service

HF1799/SF1541

Modifies the existing \$750 tax credit for past military service by **increasing the credit to \$1,000** and income limits to \$50,000 for qualified Veterans.

Disclosure Statement

HF1209/SF1209

Directs the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to create a written disclosure statement and waiver that must be provided to Veterans seeking Veterans benefits services from private, for-profit providers.

Military Beneficiary's Pay or Benefits Protections

HF368/SF327

Prohibits a person from entering or attempting to enter into an agreement with a military beneficiary that assigns the beneficiary's pay or benefits to another party in a manner that violates federal law.