

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 912

**DATE:** April 7, 2003

**Version:** As Introduced

**Authors:** Kielkucki

**Subject:** Veterans Affairs

**Analyst:** Jim Cleary, 651-296-5053

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd).

---

### Overview

This bill amends the State Soldiers' Assistance Act by changing the term "Minnesota citizen" to "Minnesota resident," and clarifies the meaning of that term as 30 or more days of habitation in the state with the intent of making Minnesota one's home. It also authorizes the commissioner to require proof of residency and specifies how the veteran may demonstrate that proof.

This definition of residency is modeled after that used for general assistance and general assistance medical care (Minn. Stat. § 256D.02, subdivision 12a). However, it does not provide for any exceptions (whereas the GA/GAMC definition provides for some exceptions related to hardship cases and to certain migrant laborers, and also counts time spent in a battered women's shelter toward the 30-day requirement).

**Note:** The State Soldiers Assistance Fund is managed by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to assist indigent military veterans and/or their dependents with temporary assistance (for up to six months) with housing, medical care and/or other life essentials. [Some examples of assistance under the program are: payment for new eyeglasses, urgent dental care, urgent medical care, a heating bill, a rent bill, an auto repair, emergency groceries, and so on.]