

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As Introduced

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**Subject:** Veterans; authorizing veterans cemeteries

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### Overview

This bill updates the language of the State Veterans Cemetery statute (M.S. 197.236) in various ways, especially by converting from singular to plural the noun *cemetery (cemeteries)*, in anticipation of the authorization of an additional one or two state veteran cemeteries in the near future.

The bill also strikes language of current law requiring that burial plots be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, including the requirement that family members be grouped together, if feasible. (The bill continues to allow for the burial of the spouse and any dependent child of an eligible deceased service member or veteran.)

### Background

Legislation enacted in 1994 authorized the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Little Falls, Minnesota, on donated land adjacent to Camp Ripley and the Mississippi River. That cemetery remains the first and only Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery.

By contrast, the Ft. Snelling Veterans Cemetery in Minneapolis is a federal facility. Many local public and private cemeteries have a section reserved for veterans and their spouses.

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