

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

The bill appropriates funding for the next biennium to the Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Board of Animal Health (BAH), the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Military Affairs.

Numerous policy changes are also proposed (see articles 2-5).

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#### **Article 1: Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Appropriations**

- 1 Summary of appropriations.** Totals the amounts appropriated in each year and over the biennium for agriculture and veterans affairs, including a breakdown by fund.
- 2 Agriculture and veterans affairs appropriations.** Inserts standard appropriation language.
- 3 Department of Agriculture.** Appropriates funding in FY2008 and FY2009 to the department and its activities.

**Subd. 1. Total appropriation.** Appropriates \$45,274,000 in FY2008 and \$46,158,000 in FY2009. The vast majority of the funding comes from the general

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fund, while \$388,000 in each year is from the remediation fund.

**Subd. 2. Protection services.** Appropriates \$14,527,000 in FY2008 and \$13,995,000 in FY2009 for the MDA's protection activities. Earmarks funding for several specific purposes.

**Subd. 3. Agricultural marketing and development.** Appropriates \$7,712,000 in FY2008 and \$5,086,000 in FY2009 for the MDA's marketing activities. Earmarks funding for several specific purposes.

**Subd. 4. Bioenergy.** Appropriates \$16,368,000 in FY2008 and \$19,568,000 in FY2009 for ethanol producer payments and other energy-related grants.

**Subd. 5. Administration and financial assistance.** Appropriates \$6,667,000 in FY2008 and \$7,509,000 in FY2009 for the MDA's administration and financial assistance activities. Earmarks grants for several entities and purposes.

**4 Board of Animal Health.** Appropriates \$3,512,000 in FY2008 and \$3,456,000 in FY2009 to the board and earmarks funding for bovine tuberculosis activities and reimbursements for destroyed cattle.

**5 Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.** Appropriates \$4,000,000 in FY2008 and \$4,000,000 in FY2009 to AURI.

**6 Veterans Affairs.** Appropriates \$14,447,000 in FY2008 and \$13,682,000 in FY2009 to the department for its activities. All but \$338,000 (of special revenue) each year comes from the general fund

(a) \$1,000,000 in each year is added to the base for the State Soldier's Assistance Program.

(b) \$1,450,000 in FY2008 and \$950,000 in FY 2009, added to the base, is for grants to County Veteran Service Offices (CVSOs) to enhance veterans programs and services. Counties must compete for the grants based on program goals specified in the rider.

(c) \$2,000,000 each year is for outreach to veterans. Of this amount each year, \$750,000 is for tribal service officers; \$1,000,000 is for a grant to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans; and \$250,000 is for outreach programs.

(d) \$250,000 each year, added to the base, is for grants to specified Congressionally Chartered veterans service organizations.

(e) \$450,000 each year is for a onetime expansion of the higher education veterans assistance program.

(f) \$100,000 each year is for information technology.

(g) \$75,000 each year, added to the base, is for the State Veterans Cemetery.

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- (h) \$500,000 each year, added to the base, is for administration by the department.
- (i) \$63,000 in FY2008 and \$128,000 in FY2009 is for personnel compensation adjustments within the department.
- (j) \$100,000 each year is for compensation for honor guards at the funerals of veterans.
- (k) \$26,000 each year is for educational benefits for spouses of veterans who die or are totally and permanently disabled as a result of the veteran's military service.
- (l) \$500,000 each year is for providing health screening tests for depleted uranium in the bodies of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- (m) A onetime appropriation of \$250,000, available immediately, is for assisting WWII veterans to attend the WWII Memorial dedication ceremony on the Capitol Mall.
- (n) A onetime appropriation of \$80,000 in FY2008 is for suicide prevention and psychological support for returning veterans. Of this amount, \$50,000 is for a study by the commissioner and the adjutant general, and \$30,000 is for a telephone hotline to *refer* veterans to available psychological counseling services.
- (o) \$338,000 is appropriated each year from the special revenue account from the *Support our Troops License Plates*, for making grants to veterans' service organizations and for outreach to underserved veterans.

## **Article 2: Agriculture Policy**

- 1 Compensation required.** Puts a \$100 floor and \$20,000 per claim cap on compensation paid by the state to owners of livestock destroyed or crippled by a gray wolf. Puts a \$100,000 per calendar year cap on combined compensation paid under this program and the program in section 2.
- 2 Compensation.** Puts a \$100,000 per calendar year cap on combined payments for crop damage and yield loss caused by elk and the compensation program for livestock destroyed or crippled by a gray wolf in section 1.
- 3 Cooperation with federal agencies.** Grants the MDA greater latitude in applying for, receiving, and spending federal funds without legislative oversight.
- 4 Agricultural development grants and contracts.** Raises the biennial limit on grants from the MDA to an organization for the promotion and marketing of agricultural products.
- 5 Establishment and use of label.** Expands use of the "Minnesota grown" label to agricultural products that are "raised."
- 6 License.** Raises the "Minnesota grown" license fee from \$5 to \$20.
- 7 Minnesota grown account.** Changes the ways in which the MDA can use money in the Minnesota grown account. Changes allowable uses from enforcing and promoting the logo to using the money to cover direct implementation costs.
- 8 Funding sources.** Lists eligible funding sources for the Minnesota grown program.
- 9 Appropriations must be matched by private funds.** Requires expenditures from the Minnesota grown account to be matched at least 1:4 by private contributions.

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- 10 Purpose.** Broadens the scope of the loan program to allow no or low interest loans to water-quality cooperatives.
- 11 Definitions.** Creates a new definition for "water-quality cooperative," to mean, except as expressly limited in the section, an association of persons organized under chapter 308A ("Cooperatives") to install, own, manage, and control individual sewage treatment systems or alternative discharging sewage systems and provide water quality treatment and management services for its members within a defined geographical area.
- 12 Agricultural and environmental revolving accounts.** Changes the fund for the Agricultural Best Management Loan Program (AgBMP) from the agricultural fund to the special revenue fund.
- 13 Application fee.** Requires AgBMP application fees to be deposited in the special revenue, rather than agricultural, fund.
- 14 Loans issued to borrower.** Doubles allowable loan amounts. Removes the five-year cap on loans for conservation tillage projects, allowing these loans to be for ten years, the maximum term for all other allowable projects. Removes a provision allowing loans of up to \$100,000 for a community sewage treatment system serving two or more households.
- 15 Administrative penalties; citation.** Extends the MDA's authority to issue citations and administrative penalties to violations of chapter 25, "Commercial Feed."
- 16 Port of Duluth.** Requires the MDA to provide inspection services for grain exported from the Port of Duluth and to maintain and renew authority from the USDA to do so.
- 17 Collection and disposal.** Specifies that the waste pesticide collection program is open to end users of agricultural and residential pesticides whose waste is generated in Minnesota.
- Effective date.** The section is effective 8/1/07 and applies to all pesticide collection contracts entered into by the MDA and local units of government after that date.
- 18 Disposal site requirement.** Requires the MDA (in consultation with the county employee in charge of solid waste management) to designate a place in each county where persons can drop off waste pesticides.
- Effective date.** The section is effective 8/1/07 and applies to all pesticide collection contracts entered into by the MDA and local units of government after that date.
- 19 Application fee.** Increases the minimum amount the MDA must spend each fiscal year for waste pesticide collection from \$300,000 to \$400,000, not including the MDA's own admin costs.
- Effective date.** The section is effective 8/1/07 and applies to all pesticide collection contracts entered into by the MDA and local units of government after that date.
- 20 Requirement.** Sections 20-22 and 28 remove references to the aquatic pest control license for pesticide applicators, which is eliminated in section 64.
- 21 Requirement.** See above.
- 22 Pesticide application on golf courses.** See above.
- 23 Exemption.** Exempts a person who stores no more than 6,000 gallons of liquid commercial fertilizer on their property and for their own use from the permitting and safeguarding requirements of section 18C.305.
- 24 Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment; membership.** Establishes a 12-member council made up

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of representatives of named organizations. Specifies member term details.

**Subd. 2. Powers and duties.** Grants the council power to select projects to receive funding from the Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Program. Defines "fertilizer" as including soil amendments and plant amendments but not vegetable or animal manures that are not manipulated. Grants the MDA authority over deposits and withdrawals to the program account, but allows the council to select a different administrative agent after the first year if it so chooses. Requires the department to act as the fiscal and administrative agent in the first program year and allows the department to use a portion of program revenue to offset costs incurred. Requires the department to provide the council with an estimate of annual program costs by October 1, 2007.

**Subd. 3. Checkoff fees.** Gives the legislature the option of starting, administering, or stopping an industry fee when requested by the council. Authorizes a 40¢/ton checkoff fee charged by any person selling fertilizer to Minnesota producers (as defined). Requires that when the fee is in effect, businesses forward the funds semiannually to the commissioner for deposit in a new agricultural fertilizer research and education program account in the agricultural fund.

**Subd. 4. Program account.** Establishes an account in the state treasury for the program.

**Subd. 5. Refunds.** Allows any producer, furnishing forms and proof required by the MDA, may request a refund of checkoff fees paid.

**Subd. 6. Rules.** Exempts the MDA's duties under this and the following section from formal agency rulemaking.

**Subd. 7. Expiration.** This section expires January 8, 2017.

**Effective date.** This section is effective 1/1/08.

**25 Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research And Education Program.**

**Subd. 1. Eligible Projects.** Specifies that eligible projects include research, education, and technology transfer related to the production and application of fertilizer, soil amendment, and other plant amendments. Chosen projects must include an element of outreach to the production agricultural community.

**Subd. 2. Awarding grants.** Details project application and selection procedures.

**Subd. 3. Annual audit.** Mandates that the program have an annual financial audit.

**Subd. 4. Expiration.** This section expires January 8, 2017.

**Effective date.** This section is effective 1/1/08.

**26 Eligible person.** Disallows reimbursement of response costs incurred by common carriers and motor carriers transporting agricultural chemicals unless they voluntarily clean up the spill in response to a request or order by the MDA.

**27 Incident.** Adds a definition for "incident," providing examples of events that release agricultural chemicals into the environment. Asserts that the normal, legal use of a product or practice does not constitute an incident.

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- 28**     **Fee.** See section 20.
- 29**     **Requirement.** Modifies the commercial feed license exemption for retailers that sell feed guaranteed by another.
- 30**     **Application; date of issuance.** Adds a new clause requiring licenses issued for a temporary food concession stand to have a license issuance and renewal date consistent with appropriate statutory provisions.
- 31**     **Extent of license.** Allows licenses for retail food vehicles and carts to be valid statewide and issued once annually unless the structure is a seasonal permanent food stand, seasonal temporary food stand, food cart, or special event food stand. "Special event food stand" means a food and beverage service establishment which is used in conjunction with celebrations and special events, and which operates no more than three times annually for no more than ten total days.
- 32**     **Fees; application.** Increases the fees the MDA charges to review food handler facility floor plans prior to construction, remodeling, or conversion.
- 33**     **Food safety and defense task force.** Creates a new task force to advise the governor and legislature on food issues and food safety.
- Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes the task force.
- Subd. 2. Membership.** Lists public and private organizations that must be represented on the task force.
- Subd. 3. Organization.** Requires annual elections of a chair and requires the task force to meet monthly or when required by the chair.
- Subd. 4. Staff.** Requires the MDA to provide staff and space for the task force.
- Subd. 5. Duties.** Prescribes duties for the task force.
- 34**     **Penalties.** Changes the party providing farm inspections following a second milk contamination violation within a 12-month period from "the regulatory agency or its agent" to "a qualified dairy sanitarian." Makes the penalty for the third violation in a 12-month period applicable for all subsequent violations within the period. Changes the party providing farm inspections following a positive producer sample on a bulk load of milk from "the plant representative and the producer" to "a qualified dairy sanitarian."
- 35**     **Milk houses for bulk tanks.** Removes references to a law repealed in section 64 (below).
- 36**     **Rules.** Removes reference to milk requirements in the "1995 Grade A Condensed and Dry Milk Ordinance" of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 37**     **Milk for manufacturing; quality standards.** Removes reference to the June 17, 2002, revision of certain USDA milk recommendations.
- 38**     **Indemnity for destroyed cattle.** Inserts a new section in the chapter governing the BAH. (The existing sections are repealed in section 64.) Allows the BAH to pay indemnity to cattle owners who euthanize cattle that test suspect for bovine tuberculosis. Stipulates that indemnity may be paid only if the legislature has appropriated funds for that purpose and the United States Department of Agriculture has refused to pay indemnity for the animal. Requires the BAH to pay the difference between the market value and appraised salvage value. Allows the owner, upon refusal of the BAH's offer, to abstain from disposing of the

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animal until it tests positive for bovine tuberculosis. Requires indemnity payments made by the BAH to be subject to the requirements of chapter 336A, "Farm Product Liens And Financing Statements."

- 39 Rules for control of bovine tuberculosis.** Gives the BAH authority to adopt rules to provide for the control of bovine tuberculosis. (The existing rules are repealed in section 64.) Requires relevant federal regulations to be incorporated.
- 40 Eligibility generally.** Expands the general eligibility requirements for Rural Finance Authority (RFA) loans from a resident of Minnesota, a domestic farm family corporation, or a family farm partnership to all entities eligible to own and/or farm farmland under the state's corporate farm law.
- 41 Specifications.** Sections 42 to 44 remove language authorizing the RFA to make direct loans under the Agricultural Improvement Loan Program. Participation loans are still allowable.
- 42 Application and origination fee.** See above.
- 43 Interest rate.** See above.
- 44 Eligibility.** Expands the general eligibility requirements for the RFA's Value-Added Agricultural Product Loan Program from a resident of Minnesota, a domestic farm family corporation, or a family farm partnership to all entities eligible to own and/or farm farmland under the state's corporate farm law.
- 45 Disaster recovery loan program.**
- Subd. 1. Establishment.** Lists eligible disaster events including drought. Authorizes loans for the purchase of drought mitigation equipment.
- Subd. 3. Eligibility.** Aligns eligibility for this disaster loan program with the general requirements for RFA loans. These general requirements were amended in section 41. Provides for an inflation-adjusted net worth eligibility limit.
- Subd. 4. Loans.** Changes the program's fund from the disaster recovery fund to the RFA's general revolving loan account.
- 46 Livestock equipment pilot loan program.**
- Subd. 1. Establishment.** Eliminates the requirement that program loans be used only to finance the first purchase of eligible equipment.
- Subd. 2. Eligibility.** Eliminates preference for applicants who have farmed less than 10 years. Removes a preference for applicants who have farmed fewer than 10 years.
- Subd. 3. Loans.** Expands maximum loan length from seven to 10 years.
- Subd. 4. Eligible expenditures.** Adds hoop barns, portable structures, hay and forage equipment, and related structural work for the installation of equipment.
- 47 Rural finance authority revolving loan account.** Adds the disaster recovery program in section 46 to the list of RFA loan programs using this account.
- 48 Eligibility; beginning farmers.** Reduces from five to three the number of years that loan recipients must participate in a farm management program.
- 49 New open-air swine basins.** Extends the sunset for the moratorium on new open-air swine basins from June 30, 2007, to June 30, 2012.
- 50 Animal chiropractic.** Defines the term for use in section 56 dealing with the practice

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veterinary medicine.

- 51 Artificial insemination.** Defines the term for use in section 56 dealing with the practice veterinary medicine.
- 52 Farriery.** Defines the term for use in section 56 dealing with the practice veterinary medicine.
- 53 Massage.** Defines the term for use in section 56 dealing with the practice veterinary medicine.
- 54 Teeth floating.** Defines the term for use in section 56 dealing with the practice veterinary medicine.
- 55 Practice.** Allows persons that are not board-certified veterinarians to perform artificial insemination, teeth floating, farriery, animal chiropractic, massage, or other treatments of similar or less risk or requiring similar or less formal veterinary education and employed to maintain domestic animal in good health.
- 56 State fair and county fair camping areas.** Exempts campgrounds maintained by a county agricultural society during a county fair or other fair from standard campground health regulations. Requires these campgrounds to meet the same requirements as the camping area on the State Fairgrounds.
- 57 County and district societies.** Prohibits a county or district humane society from conducting investigations or assisting in prosecutions outside of its geographic jurisdiction.
- 58 Commissioner to evaluate and report.** Requires the MDA, in consultation with the Department of Health and the University of Minnesota, to evaluate the potential hazards posed by plants to retail consumers and livestock. The commissioners must report their findings to the house and senate agriculture policy committees by March 1, 2008.
- 59 Waste pesticide task force.** Requires the MDA to convene a task force and deliver to the legislature by January 5, 2008, a comprehensive approach to equitably and efficiently collect waste pesticides statewide.
- 60 Waste pesticide collection, disposal.** Requires the MDA to spend \$600,000 in FY08 to provide waste pesticide collection opportunities in those counties that have not had in-county drop off opportunities in the past two fiscal years.
- 61 Residential antimicrobial pesticide applicator license study.** Directs the MDA and Department of Health to study the development and implementation of a new commercial license category for residential antimicrobial applicators. Directs the departments to work with the University of Minnesota. Specifies report components and requires a report to certain legislative committees by December 1, 2007.
- 62 Repealer.** Eliminates certain laws and rules.

**Paragraph (a)** eliminates: the Minnesota grown matching account (§ 17.109), the license for aquatic pesticide applicators (§ 18B.315); the fee/penalty charged to persons registering fertilizer sold in Minnesota prior to initial registration (§ 18C.425, subd. 5); a provision requiring the seller of a bulk milk tank to provide the buyer with a copy of certain state laws (§ 32.213); current law governing how the BAH handles indemnity for any infected animal it intends to kill (§ 35.08); a requirement that the BAH/a veterinarian inspect the animal prior to destruction; also governs in greater detail how/when the state compensates the owner (§ 35.09), as well as indemnity for animals subject to liens or mortgages (§ 35.10), the compensation of experts and appraisers (§ 35.11), and expenses for killing, burial, and quarantine (§ 35.12); the Rural Finance Authority's ability to issue direct loans



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under the Agricultural Improvement Loan Program (§ 41B.043. subd. 1a); and a law governing who may practice horse dentistry (§ 156.075).

**Paragraph (b)** eliminates: all BAH rules (chapter 1705 "Diseases of Domestic Animals") dealing with testing and destroying cattle for bovine tuberculosis infection (1705.0840 through 1705.1088). (The BAH is given authority to create replacement rules in section 38).

### **Article 3: Bioenergy Policy**

**1 NextGen energy.** Establishes a board to direct the state's efforts and investments in the next generation of biofuels.

**Subd. 1. Purpose.** Sets a state goal, via the MDA, to research and develop renewable energy sources that displace fossil fuels.

**Subd. 2. NextGen Energy Board.** Creates a board made up of representatives of state agencies, legislative appointees, and AURI, as well as persons appointed by the governor that represent MnSCU, the University of Minnesota, two statewide agriculture organizations and two statewide environment and natural resources conservation organizations.

**Subd. 3. Duties.** Prescribes duties for the board, including giving recommendations to the legislature by February each year.

**Subd. 4. Commissioner's duties.** Requires the MDA to administer the NextGen program.

**Subd. 5. Expiration.** This section expires June 30, 2011.

**2 Twenty-five by twenty-five goal.** Sets a goal that by 2025, 25 percent of the energy consumed in the state is derived from renewable resources derived from Minnesota's own agriculture, forestry, and working lands.

**3 Petroleum replacement goal.** Modifies the petroleum replacement goal for consistency with section 2.

### **Article 4: Veterans Affairs Policy**

**1 Honor guards.** Authorizes the adjutant general to activate with pay National Guard members to serve as an honor guard at the funeral of any person who has served for six years or more in the National Guard (irrespective of whether the deceased was serving or discharged prior to death).

**2 Depleted uranium testing.** Directs the commissioner to make available high quality health screening tests for the presence of depleted uranium in the body, for Minnesota veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan for 30 or more days since 9/11.

[Note: Depleted uranium is a very dense and, thus, highly effective armor-piercing metal used in the construction of many military munitions, including those used by the U.S. military against enemy military vehicles, weapons emplacements, and logistical structures

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during both the Persian Gulf War and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Upon explosion, depleted uranium munitions tend to fragment and/or pulverize into a heavy dust of fine particles.]

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** "Eligible person" is defined as a veteran or current service member who has served at any time since the start of the Persian Gulf War. The person must also be a Minnesota resident.

**Subds. 2 and 3. Health screening test.** Directs the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of health, to select a highly sensitive bioassay test capable of reliably detecting depleted uranium in the body. (The test would be administered by medical professionals selected by the commissioner.) Also specifies further eligibility criteria.

**Subd. 4. Notification.** The commissioner must notify eligible persons of their potential rights to obtain the test.

**Subd. 5. Random sample study included.** Directs that in addition to the testing required under subdivisions 1 to 4, the commissioner must select an additional 10 percent sample of Minnesota soldiers and veterans who spent 30 or more days of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan since 9/11, to provide them as well with the same test.

The adjutant general and other reserve commanders must assist by providing names and addresses of such eligible persons.

**3 Honor guards.** Directs the commissioner of veterans affairs to pay, within available funds, a stipend of up to \$50 to a local unit of a Congressionally Chartered veterans organization each time the unit provides honor guard service at the funeral of a veteran. Allows the commissioner to give priority to local units *not* operating charitable gambling.

**4 Educational assistance for war survivors.** Clarifies and slightly extends the War Orphans Act of 1943 (renamed the *War Survivors Act*) which provides a full waiver of tuition and fees at any Minnesota public institution of higher education to the dependent children of a soldier or veteran who dies as a direct result of military service. The bill extends this benefit to the person's spouse, as well.

The statute also provides a stipend of \$750 per year to the eligible spouse and children during each year of their higher education.

The veteran must have been a Minnesota resident at the time of entry into the military. The benefit ceases once the person attains a bachelor's degree or the equivalent.

**5 - 6 Veterans Home Board.** Loosens somewhat the requirement that the executive director of the Board be a veteran. The bill directs the board, when hiring for that position, to hire a veteran if at least three qualified applicants who are veterans have applied for the position. Only if that is not the case, may the board consider applicants who are not veterans.

**7 Report; psychological counseling services for veterans.** By November 1, 2007, the commissioner of veterans affairs and the adjutant general must report to the legislature regarding the psychological needs of returning soldiers and veterans, and must make recommendations on how best to address them.

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The report must also provide an overview of treatment resources available for veterans, with particular emphasis on the mental health facility being planned by the Veterans Home Board for Kandiyohi County.

### **Article 5: Military Affairs**

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**Subd. 1. Appropriations.** \$21,814,000 in FY2008 and \$20,123,000 in FY2009 to the department for its activities. All but \$338,000 (of special revenue) in each year is from the general fund.

**Subd. 2. Maintenance of Training Facilities.** \$7,504,000 in FY2008 and \$7,448,000 in FY2009.

\$185,000 the first year is to pay special assessments levied against the state (onetime).

**Subd. 3. General Support.** \$4,101,000 in FY2008 and \$2,464,000 in FY2009.

(a) \$1,500,000 the first year is for the National Guard reintegration program, available until spent.

(b) \$275,000 the first year and \$285,000 the second year are for additional staffing.

(c) \$338,000 each year is from the *Support our Troops* license plate account in the special revenue fund.

(d) \$150,000 the first year is for the predesign and design of a new facility for this science education program for students from participating grade schools.

(e) \$25,000 the first year is for a longitudinal study measuring student improvement in academic achievement associated with participation in the Starbase Program.

**Subd. 4. Enlistment Incentives.** \$10,209,000 in FY2008 and \$10,211,000 in FY2009. Available in either year, until expended.

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**Honor Guards.** Authorizes the Adjutant General to activate members of the National Guard into state active service at their normal rate of pay to serve as honor guard for the funeral of any Guard member has served six or more years in the Guard and who dies while serving actively in the military.

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**Amateur athletics.** Establishes that members of the National Guard and Reserves who are eligible participants in any Minnesota amateur athletic association upon being ordered into active military service continue to be eligible for both regular and postseason play when home on leave and following demobilization from the military, the same as if the member had been present and participating in association play during the entire time, irrespective of the length of that mobilization. High Schools and postsecondary educational institutions are explicitly exempted from this provision.

5

**National Guard Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality.** Authorizes the Adjutant General to establish this fund for activities supporting the morale and welfare of Guard members, including for recreational facilities and activities at Camp Ripley and other property owned or controlled by the Minnesota National Guard.

States that no general fund money or other state funds may be used for the purposes

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authorized under this section. However, the fund may accept donations and federal funds, as well as money received from recycling activities to the extent authorized by federal regulations.

- 6**      **Bond Sale Authorization Reduced.** The amount of the bond sale authorized in 2006 legislation for the Starbase facility referenced in section 2(d) is reduced by \$150,000. In effect, sections 4 and 5 shift the funding for design of the Starbase facility from bonding to general fund appropriation, in compliance with federal regulations.
- 7**      **Repealer.** Deletes a 2006 appropriation of \$150,000 for predesign and design of a new facility for the Starbase Minnesota educational program for disadvantaged youth.