



2019 SENATE BILL 735

January 29, 2020 - Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, ROTH, COWLES, CARPENTER, JACQUE, OLSEN, RINGHAND, LARSON and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives SNYDER, TUSLER, SPIROS, KRUG, MURPHY, EMERSON, ANDERSON, KULP, THIESFELDT, KURTZ, SHANKLAND, BILLINGS, KATZMA, HINTZ, TITTL, EDMING and STEFFEN. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to create** 14.16 (17) of the statutes; **relating to:** creating Hmong-Lao
2 Veterans Day.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates Hmong-Lao Veterans Day, the purpose of which is to recognize Southeast Asians, Americans, and their allies who served, suffered, sacrificed, or died in the Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War in the years 1961 to 1975 in support of the armed forces of the United States and to recognize May 14, 1975, as the last day of airlift evacuation of officers and their families from the covert headquarters in Long Tieng, Laos, to the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand. The bill designates May 14 as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day and requires the governor to annually issue a proclamation for the observance of Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 14.16 (17) of the statutes is created to read:
4 14.16 (17) **HMONG-LAO VETERANS DAY.** To recognize Southeast Asians,
5 Americans, and their allies who served, suffered, sacrificed, or died in the Secret War
6 in Laos during the Vietnam War in the years 1961 to 1975 in support of the armed

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1 forces of the United States and in recognition of May 14, 1975, as the last day of airlift
2 evacuation of officers and their families from the covert headquarters in Long Tieng,
3 Laos, to the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand, May 14 is designated as the
4 “Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.” The governor shall issue annually a suitable
5 proclamation for the observance of “Hmong-Lao Veterans Day,” ordering the flags
6 at the state capitol building to be flown at half-staff, requesting that some portion
7 of the day be used to recall the veterans’ accomplishments and to thank those
8 veterans for their service during that war, and encouraging schools to discuss Hmong
9 military service in support of the armed forces of the United States.

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(END)