

2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_sb0205

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Senate Bill 205... relating to: veterans facilities and programs in northwestern Wisconsin.

BILL SPONSORS

Introduced by Senators **Zien, Brown, S. Fitzgerald, Lassa, Stepp, Schultz and Roessler.**

Cosponsored by Representative **Suder.**

BILL HISTORY

Senate Bill 205 was introduced on June 23, 2003 and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform. A public hearing was held on July 9, 2003, and executive session was taken on September 18, 2003.

The committee recommended SB 205 for passage as amended on a 5-0 vote.

LRB ANALYSIS

Current Law: Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to operate residential, treatment and nursing facilities in southeastern Wisconsin on land formerly occupied by the Southern Center for the Developmentally Disabled (located in Union Grove). The department has the authority to employ necessary personnel and to purchase or condemn lands necessary to construct and operate these facilities. The department presently operates three community-based residential facilities on the property.

Also under current law, proceeds from the sale of land at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled only may be used to support any state activity conducted or performed on the property that is occupied or managed by the Department of Health and Family Services or the Department of Corrections. Any such expenditure must be approved by the Joint Committee on Finance.

Proposed Changes: This bill grants the department similar authority to develop, construct or renovate and operate residential, treatment and nursing facilities in northwestern Wisconsin on land located at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled (in Chippewa Falls). The bill also creates a trust fund from the net proceeds of the sale of surplus land at the center to pay for the development of these facilities.

Senate Amendment 1 eliminates the creation of a special trust fund but allows money from the sale of land at the Northern Center for the Developmentally Disabled to be used for activities conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Joint Committee on Finance must approve any such expenditure.

Major Impact: Senate Bill 205 paves the way for the development of a veterans campus at the Northern Center.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no immediate estimated fiscal effect since no funds are appropriated and the provisions of the bill are permissive in nature. The long-range fiscal effect is indeterminate since it is unknown whether the legislature will authorize the development of the veterans facilities allowed under the bill. Additionally, while most projects could qualify for federal funding, it is unclear how much federal grant money would be available to fund the construction/renovation and operating costs of the new veterans facilities.

<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>The following people appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Rep. Scott Suder, 69th Assembly District; (2) Representative Jeff Wood, 67th Assembly District; (3) Secretary Ray Boland, Department of Veterans Affairs; and (4) Mayor Doug Sandvick, City of Chippewa Falls.</p> <p>The following people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Sen. Dave Zien, 23rd Senate District; (2) Rep. Terry Musser, 92nd Assembly District; (3) Steve Lawrence, Veterans of Foreign Wars; (4) Michael Furgal, Veterans of Foreign Wars; (5) Mike Haley, Chippewa Falls; (6) Tom Curran, Chippewa Falls; (7) Eleanor Wohebrier, Chippewa Falls; (8) Walter Wohebrier, Chippewa Falls; (9) Corbet Sandvick, Chippewa Falls; (10) Dennis Doughty, Chippewa Falls; (11) Ron Bleskvehek, Chippewa Falls; and (12) Terry Giordano, Hallie Peace Memorial Park.</p> <p>The following organization registered their support for the bill with the State Ethics Board, but did not testify or register at the public hearing: (1) Wisconsin State Employees Union.</p> <p>The following organization registered their intention to lobby on SB 205 but did not take a position on the bill: (1) Wisconsin Professional Police Association.</p>
<p>OPPOSITION</p>	<p>No one testified or registered in opposition to SB 205.</p>
<p>CONTACT</p>	<p>Melissa Gilbert, Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform</p>
<p>DATE</p>	<p>October 21, 2003</p>