

Report From Agency

STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Veterans Affairs

Report from Agency RULEMAKING REPORT TO LEGISLATURE Clearinghouse Rule 22-042

I. THE PROPOSED RULE:

The proposed rule, including the analysis and text, is attached.

II. REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE FORMS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ESTIMATE AND EIA:

The Fiscal Estimate and EIA are attached.

IV. DETAILED STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE BASIS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE, INCLUDING HOW THE PROPOSED RULE ADVANCES RELEVANT STATUTORY GOALS OR PURPOSES:

- These proposed rules create a subsection under s. VA 2.08 – Veterans Employment and Entrepreneurship Grants – for the primary objective of expanding the expenditure of grant funds, authorized under s. 45.437, Stats.
- The purpose of the program is to award grants to nonprofit organizations that develop and maintain a peer network of mentors to connect transitioning service members with employment opportunities in coordination with the ETS Sponsorship Program. Through this partnership, services will be made available to military members transitioning from active military service to civilian life.
- ETS-Sponsorship is a Washington D.C.-based 501.c4 nonprofit corporation which has established partnerships with the Department of Defense (DOD) and US Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to promote social welfare for transitioning service members, Veterans, and the communities where they live or plan to live post separation from military service.
- The proposed rules will ensure grants authorized under s. 45.437, Stats., can be awarded to non-profit organizations to the extent the organization's participation is related to employing transitioning service members and improving the employment outcomes for veterans in Wisconsin.
- The proposed rules will award grants to Wisconsin-based non-profit organizations that have been certified as Community Integration Coordinators (CIC). CICs complete training and form a partnership with ETS Sponsorship and the regional VHA to establish and operate sponsor networks within the state, connecting trained and certified sponsors with transitioning service members in order to connect them with local resources and opportunities.

- Eligible applicants (non-profit organizations who are certified as a CIC) can apply for a maximum \$20,000 grant at any time throughout the fiscal year.
- Grant funds may only be used to provide employment-related services to transitioning service-members. (A transitioning service member means an individual who is separating or has separated from the U.S. Armed Forces to return to civilian life.)
- The Department will allocate grant funds to support this grant program, subject to availability of funds under [s. 20.485 \(2\) \(qm\), Stats.](#), which is the funding source for the payment of veterans employment and entrepreneurship grants under [s. 45.437, Stats.](#)
- The proposed rule creates definitions under s. VA 2.08 (3) for terms referenced within the rule and creates s. VA 2.08 (6) to establish rules for the implementation and administration of the veterans employment and transition support grant program.

V. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT’S RESPONSES, EXPLANATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED RULES PROMPTED BY PUBLIC COMMENTS:

One person attended the public hearing. No public comments were received.

Pursuant to ss. 45.03 (2m) and 227.14 (2) (a) 6m., Stats., administrative rules prepared by the Department of Veterans Affairs must be provided to the Board of Veterans Affairs. The Board may prepare a report containing written comments and its opinion regarding the proposed rules. The Board of Veterans Affairs was provided a copy of the proposed rules and offered no comments. A copy of the letter signed by the Board Chair is attached.

VI. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

All recommendations in the Clearinghouse Report were accepted and incorporated into the proposed rule. Where the comments included a question, provisions were modified in response to the questions to provide additional clarity.

VII. REPORT FROM THE SBRRB AND FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS:

N/A