

No. 77, A.]

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CHAPTER 68.

AN ACT to repeal 45.35 (8) and 45.41; and to amend 45.35 (1), (5a) and (8b) of the statutes, relating to veterans' rehabilitation and the department of veterans' affairs. *The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 45.35 (1), (5a) and (8b) of the statutes are amended to read:

45.35 (1) The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Wisconsin to * * * *give health, educational and economic assistance to veterans of the armed forces of the United States in World War II, and their dependents, who are bona fide residents of this state as defined in section 45.35 (5a), such assistance to be to such extent and under such conditions as may be determined by the board within the limitations hereinafter set forth.* * * * A liberal construction of this section is intended.

(5a) "Veteran" as used in this section means any person who served in the active military or naval service of the United States at any time between August 27, 1940 and July 25, 1947 who was honorably discharged therefrom, or who served under honorable conditions, after 90 days or more of active service, or if having served less than 90 days was honorably discharged for disability incurred in line of duty, *or who was officially reported as missing in action*, who has been a resident of this state for at least 5 years next preceding his application or a resident of this state at the time of his enlistment or induction into service and such resident at the time of making application and, in all cases, who continues his residence in this state during the full period of rehabilitation.

(8b) The department may make loans in its own name and on its own behalf to veterans for the purposes of their rehabilitation, education or for the purpose of aiding and assisting them in the purchase of property or a business, not to exceed \$1,000 to each such veteran, on such terms as the department may deem desirable. Money received from repayments of such loans shall be paid into and credited to the post-war rehabilitation trust fund. The department is hereby granted power and authority to execute any and all proper documents and enter into such agreements as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and to charge a rate of interest on all loans not exceeding the rate of 2 per cent per annum. The loans granted under this section shall not exceed 15 years in length. The department is further empowered to charge all expenses of the making of the loan to the applicant. The department is further empowered to sue and be sued, to make collections, deal with and enter into compromises for the payment of such indebtedness as may be due or become due to the department. *The department may, with the approval of the attorney-general, write off any loan or unpaid portion thereof which it deems uncollectible.*

SECTION 2. 45.35 (8) of the statutes is repealed.
SECTION 3. 45.41 of the statutes is repealed.

Approved April 28, 1949.
