

Chapter VA 1

GENERAL

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VA 1.01 Liberal statutory construction. The department of veterans affairs shall administer the provisions of chapter 45, Wis. Stats., in an expeditious and liberal manner, resolving all reasonable doubt in favor of the veteran, to the end that available benefits are provided to veterans and their eligible dependents as promptly and effectively as possible.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65; am. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67.

VA 1.02 Application. An application for benefits from the department must be made on approved departmental forms and be subscribed and sworn to by an eligible dependent, by the veteran, or by the veteran and spouse if married and not separated or in the process of obtaining a divorce. It is unlawful for anyone to charge an applicant or his spouse a commission for assisting them in completing or securing the approval of an application for benefits from the department.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65; r. and recr., Register, November, 1971, No. 191, eff. 12-1-71.

VA 1.03 Appeal. Any applicant for any benefit available through this department may, in addition to making a supplemental written presentation, appear in person, with or without counsel, to present the merits of his case or to appeal from a decision of the department before the appropriate departmental committee. In such cases, recommendations by the committee shall be submitted promptly to the board for review and final action on the appeal.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65.

VA 1.04 Benefits to those who qualify. The department shall give assistance to all resident ex-servicemen and their dependents in all matters connected with the securing of any aid or benefit which may be due them under federal or state law by reason of service in the armed forces of the United States. Financial aid from the department will not be extended to veterans or dependents where need for such aid arises or results from the willful misconduct of the veteran or the beneficiary.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65; am. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67.

VA 1.05 Cooperation with other agencies. In addition to coordinating the activities of all state agencies relating to the medical, edu-

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cational, economic or vocational rehabilitation of veterans and their dependents, the department shall cooperate with all federal, state, county or other agencies whose functions include rehabilitation of veterans.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65; am. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67.

VA 1.06 History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65; r. Register, October, 1966, No. 130, eff. 11-1-66.

VA 1.06 Definition—"veteran". For the purposes of this chapter and chapters 2, 3 and 4, "veteran" shall mean either a veteran as defined in section 45.35 (5) Wis. Stats., or a deceased veteran's unremarried widow, widower or minor or dependent child who is a resident of and living in this state at the time of making application for benefits.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67; am. Register, June, 1970, No. 174, eff. 7-1-70.

VA 1.07 Strike relief not temporary aid. Aid for direct strike relief does not fall within the definition of temporary aid.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65.

VA 1.08 Applicant's false statement. (1) **SUSPENSION OF BENEFITS.** When it appears that an applicant has made a false statement in his application, the county veterans service officer will be advised and requested to investigate and report on the apparent false statement. In any case, where the department shall find after investigation that any applicant has willfully made or caused to be made or conspired, combined, aided or assisted in, arranged for or in any wise procured the making or presentation of any false affidavit or statement submitted relative to any application or claim for veterans benefits from the department, the department may suspend all benefits available to such applicant under Wisconsin Statutes.

(2) **RIGHT TO APPEAL.** Before such suspension is made effective, the applicant may within 30 days request that he be permitted to appear before the loan advisory committee in person, with or without counsel, to present reasons why such action should not be taken. In such cases, recommendations by the loan advisory committee shall be submitted promptly to the board for review and final action on the appeal. In proper cases the facts in possession of the department shall be forwarded to the local district attorney for necessary action.

(3) **REINSTATEMENT OF BENEFITS.** The department may, upon application and after investigation and submission of a written report by the county veterans service officer concerned, reinstate benefits. If the department shall find that such application is made without sufficient cause to justify reinstatement it may deny the same.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1965, No. 111, eff. 4-1-65.

VA 1.09 Reduced payments because of return to service. When a veteran has returned to military service and desires either a reduction in monthly payments or a deferment of payments, the department can properly act upon his application for reduction or deferment when the following statements are submitted:

(1) A statement from the veteran which discloses his present income and demonstrates that his income has been materially decreased by virtue of his military service, and

Register, November, 1971, No. 191

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