

Chapter VA 1

GENERAL

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VA 1.01 Liberal statutory constructions. It shall be the policy of the department of veterans affairs to administer the provisions of section 45.35, Wis. Stats., in a most expeditious and liberal manner, resolving all reasonable doubt in favor of the claimant, to the end that the various benefits are made available to eligible veterans and/or their dependents as promptly and effectively as possible.

VA 1.02 Benefits to those who qualify. It shall be the policy of the board to give assistance to all qualified Wisconsin veterans and their dependents in all matters connected with the securing of any aid or benefit that may be due them under federal or state law by reason of their service in the armed forces of the United States. Aid or benefits under the law will not be extended to veterans or dependents where need for such aid or benefit arises or results from the misconduct of the beneficiary.

VA 1.03 Cooperation with other agencies. In addition to coordinating the activities of all state agencies performing functions relating to the medical, hospital, placement and training, educational, economic or vocational rehabilitation of Wisconsin veterans and/or their dependents, the department shall cooperate with all federal, state, county or other agencies whose functions include rehabilitation of Wisconsin war veterans.

VA 1.04 Supplement to federal benefits. It shall be the policy of the board to supplement federal benefits only in the form of rehabilitation and only when in the opinion of the department such additional grants are necessary to prevent want or distress or to otherwise assist in the veteran's successful rehabilitation.

VA 1.05 Individual determination to be made. The extent of grants to prevent want or distress is delegated to the director or his accredited representative who shall base his determination on the facts as they exist in each individual case.

VA 1.06 Scope of emergency aid. Emergency aid to prevent want or distress shall be construed to include medical, dental, glasses, subsistence (food and clothing), funds to meet insurance payments,

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travel or moving expense and such other incidentals as may be deemed necessary for the veteran's successful rehabilitation or which will enable him to successfully pursue his course of instruction.

VA 1.07 Director a member of committees. The director shall serve as an ex-officio member of all advisory and other committees appointed by the board, and all employes of the department of veterans affairs shall, insofar as possible, be war veterans.

VA 1.08 Information required from out-of-state bonus applicants.

(1) It shall be the policy of the department in the processing of applications for those veterans residing in Wisconsin five years after discharge who have received bonuses from other states as set forth in section 45.35 (5) (c), Wis. Stats., to be handled as other Wisconsin veteran applications and the director shall be authorized to reject such applications if not meeting general requirement rules.

(2) To expedite action on this type of application, the veterans must show: (a) Amount of bonus, date received, and name of state.

(b) Sworn statement verifying proof of a date establishing Wisconsin residence. Such applications will be examined in the light of the veteran's present need, the progress he has made in his rehabilitation, and will take into consideration the amount of bonus received from his former state of residence.

(c) A complete statement as to all other available facts will materially assist the department in expediting action on applications of this nature.

(d) Where a veteran has received a bonus from his former home state and he now qualifies under the provisions of our statutes, before an application for a grant is presented to the board for decision, all possibility of handling the request as a rehabilitation loan will be exhausted.

VA 1.10 Strike relief not temporary aid. It shall be the policy of the department of veterans affairs that strike relief cases shall be handled and considered within the framework of the policy of emergency aid previously adopted by the board, that aid for direct strike relief does not fall within the definition of temporary aid.

VA 1.11 Applicant's false statement. When a veteran makes a false statement on his application form, the facts will be referred back to the county veterans service officer, together with the local loan committee, for a report on the case. In any case, where the department shall find after investigation that any applicant has 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 false affidavit, statement or paper concerning any application or claim for veteran's benefits, the department shall suspend all rights, claims and benefits granted to such veteran under Wisconsin Statutes, provided, however, that such findings of the department shall be subject to review on request of the veteran by the board of veterans affairs and provided further that in proper cases the facts in possession of the department shall be forwarded to the local district attorney for necessary action.

VA 1.12 **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 such applications when the following are received: (1) A statement from the veteran which discloses his present income and his statement that his income has been materially decreased by virtue of his military service, and

(2) A statement of approval from the county veterans service officer concerned based upon his investigation.