LRB-3373/1 RPN:bjk:rs

2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 491

October 13, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives Petersen, Suder, Vos, Kerkman, Brooks, A. Ott, Knodl, Nass and Townsend, cosponsored by Senators Olsen, Kreitlow and Vinehout. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

- 1 AN ACT *to create* 45.50 (1) (am) of the statutes; **relating to:** requirements for employment as the commandant at a veterans home.
 - Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is required to employ a commandant for the veterans homes at King and at Union Grove, and may employ a commandant for the veterans home at Chippewa Falls. The commandants are state unclassified civil servants. Current law does not include any specific requirements for employment as a commandant of a veterans home. Each veterans home has a nursing home as part of the home.

This bill prohibits DVA from employing a person as a commandant of a veterans home unless the person is a veteran and is licensed as a nursing home administrator. Under the bill, a person who is a current commandant of a veterans home has six months after the bill is enacted to obtain a license as a nursing home administrator.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- **Section 1.** 45.50 (1) (am) of the statutes is created to read:
- 4 45.50 (1) (am) The department may not employ a person as the commandant
- of a veterans home unless that person is a veteran and is licensed as a nursing home
- 6 administrator under ch. 456.

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(1) Notwithstanding section 45.50 (1) (am) of the statutes, as created by this act, any person who is currently employed as the commandant of a veterans home may continue as the commandant for not more than 6 months after the effective date of this subsection without obtaining a license as a nursing home administrator.

6 (END)