



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5143/1  
AJM&SWB:cdc/wlj/amn

## 2017 SENATE BILL 853

February 28, 2018 - Introduced by Senators ERPENBACH, HANSEN, WIRCH, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, JOHNSON, LARSON, RINGHAND, RISSER, VINEHOUT, WANGGAARD and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives SHANKLAND, ANDERSON, BARCA, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, DOYLE, FIELDS, HESSELBEIN, KOLSTE, OHNSTAD, POPE, SARGENT, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, WACHS, ZAMARRIPA and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

1     **AN ACT to create** 20.485 (2) (c), 20.485 (2) (f), 45.43 (3) and 45.455 of the statutes;  
2           **relating to:** a program to provide outreach, support, and mental health and  
3           substance abuse services for veterans, funds for homeless veterans, and  
4           making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer a program to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to certain individuals who are serving or who have served in the armed forces and who have a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder. Under the bill, DVA must provide quarterly reports to the governor and the Joint Committee on Finance that include the number of individuals served by the program, the services provided to individuals, and the types of insurance held by individuals who receive services under the program.

The bill also provides that if DVA receives a notice that it will not receive funds sufficient to provide services for homeless veterans under its current veterans assistance program, DVA is required to submit a request to the Joint Committee on Finance, within 90 days of receiving the notice of insufficient funds, for moneys to supplement the loss of federal funds.

**SENATE BILL 853**

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
2           the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

				<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
3	<b>20.485</b>	<b>Veterans affairs, department of</b>			
4	(2)	LOANS AND AIDS TO VETERANS			
5	(c)	Veterans outreach and recovery			
6		program	GPR    B	538,521	719,779
7	(f)	General fund supplement to vet-			
8		erans assistance program	GPR    B	-0-	-0-

9           **SECTION 2.** 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

10           20.485 (2) (c) *Veterans outreach and recovery program.* Biennially, the amounts  
11           in the schedule to provide outreach, mental health services, and support as specified  
12           in s. 45.455.

13           **SECTION 3.** 20.485 (2) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

14           20.485 (2) (f) *General fund supplement to veterans assistance program.*  
15           Biennially, subject to s. 45.43 (3), the amounts in the schedule for the veterans  
16           assistance program under s. 45.43 (1).

17           **SECTION 4.** 45.43 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

18           45.43 (3) If the department receives a notification that the department will  
19           receive an amount of federal funds that is insufficient to continue providing all

**SENATE BILL 853**

1 services for homeless veterans under this section, the department shall submit a  
2 request to the joint committee on finance for supplemental funds sufficient to replace  
3 the federal funds from the general fund to be credited to the appropriation account  
4 under s. 20.485 (2) (f) to provide payments under this section. The department shall  
5 submit the request to the joint committee on finance within 90 days of receiving  
6 notification of the insufficient amount of federal funds. The joint committee on  
7 finance may, from the appropriation under s. 20.865 (4) (a), supplement the  
8 appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (f) in an amount equal to the amount of  
9 supplemental funds stated in the request. If the cochairpersons of the committee do  
10 not notify the department within 14 working days after the date of the department's  
11 request that the committee has scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the  
12 request for a supplement, the supplement to the appropriation is approved. If,  
13 within 14 working days after the date of the department's notification, the  
14 cochairpersons of the committee notify the department that the committee has  
15 scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed supplement, the  
16 supplement may occur only upon approval of the committee.

17 **SECTION 5.** 45.455 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **45.455 Veterans outreach and recovery program.** (1) To be funded from  
19 the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (c), the department shall administer a program  
20 to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to individuals who have a  
21 mental health condition or substance abuse disorder, and who meet one of the  
22 following conditions:

23 (a) Are serving in the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the  
24 U.S. armed forces.

**SENATE BILL 853**

1 (b) Served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, forces incorporated as part  
2 of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, or the  
3 national guard of any state and were discharged under conditions other than  
4 dishonorable.

5 (2) The eligibility requirements under s. 45.02 do not apply to an individual  
6 receiving services under sub. (1).

7 (3) The department may provide payments to facilitate the provision of services  
8 under sub. (1).

9 (4) Beginning on June 30, 2018, and quarterly thereafter, the department shall  
10 submit a report to the governor and the joint committee on finance that includes all  
11 of the following:

12 (a) The number of veterans served and the services provided to veterans under  
13 sub. (1).

14 (b) The types of insurance a veteran has at the time the veteran receives a  
15 service under sub. (1).

**SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

16 (1) REPORTING EXPENSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. In the report under section  
17 45.455 (4) of the statutes that is due on December 30, 2018, the department of  
18 veterans affairs shall include a summary of the administrative expenses for the  
19 program and the department's recommendations for whether to continue or expand  
20 the program under section 45.455 of the statutes.

21 (2) POSITION AUTHORITY. The authorized FTE positions for the department of  
22 veterans affairs are increased by 8.0 GPR FTE positions, to be funded from the  
23 appropriation under section 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, for the purpose of  
24

**SENATE BILL 853**

1 administering the program to provide outreach, mental health services, and support  
2 under section 45.455 of the statutes.

3 (END)