



2017 SENATE BILL 666

December 21, 2017 - Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, COWLES, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, DARLING, OLSEN, WANGGAARD and MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives FELZKOWSKI, LOUDENBECK, ANDERSON, HESSELBEIN, HORLACHER, JACQUE, JAGLER, KITCHENS, KUGLITSCH, KULP, MILROY, NOVAK, OTT, QUINN, ROHRKASTE, SCHRAA, TAUCHEN, TRANEL, MURSAU, VANDERMEER and GOYKE. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 20.485 (2) (c); and **to create** 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** pilot program to provide outreach, support, and mental health and
3 substance abuse services for veterans and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer a pilot 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.

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

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

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

SENATE BILL 666**SECTION 1****2017-18****2018-19****1 20.485 Veterans affairs, department of****2 (2) LOANS AND AIDS TO VETERANS****3 (c) Veterans outreach and recovery****4 program GPR B 538,521 719,779****5 SECTION 2.** 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.485 (2) (c) *Veterans outreach and recovery program.* Biennially, the amounts
7 in the schedule to provide outreach, mental health services, and support as specified
8 in 2017 Wisconsin Act (this act), section 4 (1).

9 SECTION 3. 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act
10 (this act), is repealed.

11 SECTION 4. Nonstatutory provisions.**12 (1) VETERANS OUTREACH AND RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

13 (a) To be funded from the appropriation under section 20.485 (2) (c) of the
14 statutes, the department of veterans affairs shall administer a pilot program, ending
15 on June 30, 2019, to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to
16 individuals who may have a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder,
17 and who meet one of the following conditions:

18 1. Are serving in the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the
19 U.S. armed forces.

20 2. Served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, forces incorporated as part
21 of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, or the
22 national guard of any state and were discharged under conditions other than
23 dishonorable.

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1 (b) The eligibility requirements under section 45.02 of the statutes do not apply
2 to an individual receiving services under paragraph (a).

3 (c) The department of veterans affairs may provide payments to facilitate the
4 provision of services under paragraph (a).

5 (d) Beginning on June 30, 2018, and quarterly thereafter, the department of
6 veterans affairs shall submit a report to the governor and the joint committee on
7 finance that includes all of the following:

8 1. The number of veterans served and the services provided to veterans under
9 paragraph (a).

10 2. The types of insurance a veteran has at the time the veteran receives a
11 service under paragraph (a).

12 (2) REPORTING EXPENSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. In the report under subsection
13 (1) (d) that is due on December 30, 2018, the department of veterans affairs shall
14 include a summary of the administrative expenses for the program and the
15 department's recommendations for whether to continue or expand the pilot program
16 under subsection (1).

17 (3) POSITION AUTHORITY. The authorized FTE positions for the department of
18 veterans affairs are increased by 8.0 GPR FTE project positions, to be funded from
19 the appropriation under section 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, for the purpose of
20 administering the program to provide outreach, treatment, and support under
21 subsection (1), for the period beginning on the effective date of this subsection and
22 ending on June 30, 2019.

23 **SECTION 5. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after publication,
24 except as follows:

