

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

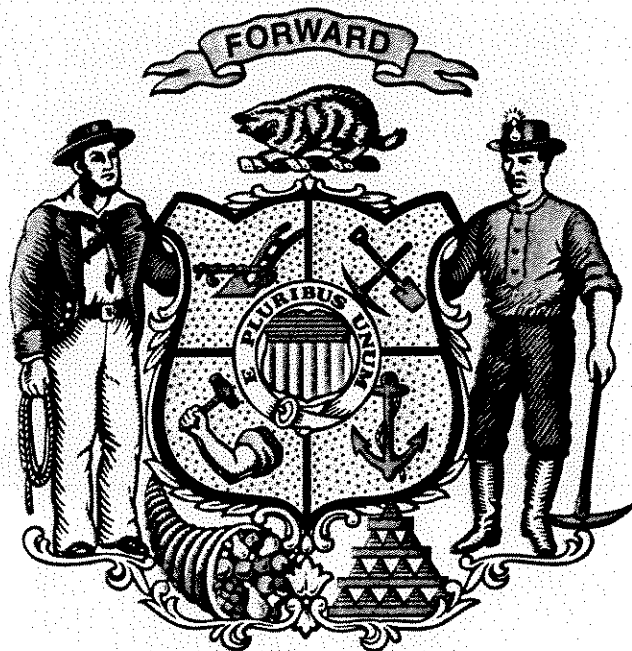
➤ **97hr_ab0735_AC-VMA_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



AB 735

WISCONSIN DIRECTORY
OF AUTHORIZED
PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS

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January 1998

Prepared by

The State of Wisconsin Educational Approval Board

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BILL SUMMARY

AB 735: Modifications to Various Veterans Programs – by
Request of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Date: February 12, 1998

BACKGROUND

There are over 500,000 veterans living in Wisconsin. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) administers various loan and grant programs to eligible veterans in order to provide educational and economic assistance.

SUMMARY OF AB 735

1. *Tuition Reimbursement for UW Institution or Technical College*

Under current law, eligible veterans enrolled as an undergraduate in any University of Wisconsin System institution or in a technical college, may receive partial reimbursement of the cost of the associated tuition and fees. The amount of the reimbursement is up to 50 percent of the cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. DVA is authorized to provide reimbursement for the fiscal year during which the course was completed or for the academic term in which the course ended, whichever is earlier.

AB 735 removes the time limit on reimbursement.

2. *Retraining Grants*

Under current law, eligible veterans enrolled in training courses or on-the-job training programs may receive a retraining grant for the costs of the course or training. Eligible training courses are conducted at technical schools and approved proprietary schools. The grant may be for up to \$3,000.

AB 735 removes proprietary school training from retraining grant eligibility.

3. *Southeastern Wisconsin Care Facility*

AB 735 authorizes DVA to construct or renovate and operate residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities in southeastern Wisconsin. This authority will be subject to Building Commission procedures and approval. AB 735 authorizes DVA to obtain, by gift, purchase or condemnation, lands for these care facilities. DVA is not requesting budget or position authority for this purpose at this time.

4. *Veteran's Home Loan Program*

DVA administers various loans for veterans. Eligible veterans may receive loans for the purchase, construction, improvement and refinancing of a home. Under current law, eligible veterans may not receive a veteran's home loan to *purchase* a home if the purchased home exceeds 2.5 times the median price of a Wisconsin home.

AB 735 prohibits eligible veterans from receiving a veteran's home loan for *any* purpose if the amount exceeds 2.5 times the median price of a Wisconsin home. This will expand the prohibition to include loans for home improvements or refinancing of a home loan.

AMENDMENTS

Assembly Amendment 1 to AB 735 (Dobyns and Vander Loop). AA 1 will allow DVA to provide veterans health care aid grants to persons who would have been eligible from July 1, 1997, to October 13, 1997. This will extend eligibility for grants to persons who could have received one had the 1997-99 budget act been enacted in a timely fashion. Health care aid grants help pay the cost of medical treatment and hospitalization for low-income veterans and their families who are unable to pay these expenses. These grants were reinstated in the 1997-99 state budget [introduced after committee executive action taken].

FISCAL EFFECT

According to DVA, AB 735 will have no determinable state fiscal effect. The Department of Administration Capital Finance Office does not anticipate added costs to administer the financing of veterans loan programs.

PROS

1. Removing the time limit on DVA's ability to reimburse veterans for tuition and fees will help ensure veterans who enrolled in the second semester of school with the expectation of receiving reimbursement will actually receive reimbursement – the current reimbursement time limit sometimes prevents this from occurring.
2. AB 735 harmonizes current law with past practice because proprietary schools were not included in previous fiscal years.
3. Expanding the prohibition of receiving home loans to include improvements to a home and refinancing of a home loan brings eligibility for these loans into line with the current prohibition on receiving a home loan for the purchase of a home if the amount of the loan will exceed 2.5 times the median price for a Wisconsin home. Veterans will be allowed to use any equity they have if they decide to purchase a higher-valued home.

CONS

None apparent.

SUPPORTERS

Rep. Musser, author; Sen. Moen, sponsor; John Scocos, DVA; Roger Mathison and Russ Peck, Wisconsin American Legion; Dale Hundt, Lawrence Danielson, and Susan Haack, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Daniel Schmitz, Disabled American Veterans; Thomas Davies, Vietnam Veterans of America.

OPPOSITION

None identified.

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HISTORY

AB 735 was introduced on January 27, 1998, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. A public hearing and executive session were held that same day. The committee voted 6-0-3 (Zukowski, Ryba and Vander Loop, absent; Ryba and Vander Loop have indicated they would have voted "aye" had they been present) to recommend AB 735 for passage.

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