

1 **45.40 Economic assistance.** (1) SUBSISTENCE AID. (a) The department may
2 provide subsistence aid to an incapacitated veteran or a dependent of a veteran in
3 an amount that the department determines advisable to prevent undue hardship.
4 The department may provide subsistence aid under this ^{Subsection} paragraph to a person
5 whose incapacitation is the result of alcohol or other drug abuse, if the person is
6 participating in an alcohol or other drug abuse treatment program approved by the
7 department. The department may provide subsistence aid on a month-to-month
8 basis or for a 3-month period. The department may provide the aid for a 3-month
9 period if the veteran or dependent whose incapacity is the basis for the aid will be
10 incapacitated for more than 3 months, as determined by a health care provider as
11 defined in s. 146.81 (1), and if earned or unearned income or aid from other sources
12 will not be available in the 3-month period. Subsistence aid shall be limited to a
13 maximum of 3 months in a 12-month period unless the department determines that
14 the need for subsistence aid in excess of this maximum time period is caused by the
15 person's relapse.

16 (b) The department may submit a request to the joint committee on finance for
17 supplemental funds from the veterans trust fund to be credited to the appropriation
18 account under s. 20.485 (2) (vm) to provide payments under this ^{Subsection} section. The joint
19 committee on finance may, from the appropriation under s. 20.865 (4) (u),
20 supplement the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (vm) in an amount equal to the
21 amount that the department expects to expend under this ^{Subsection} section. Notwithstanding
22 s. 13.101 (3) (a), the committee is not required to find that an emergency exists. If
23 the cochairpersons of the committee do not notify the secretary within 14 working
24 days after the date of the department's submittal that the committee intends to
25 schedule a meeting to review the request, the appropriation account shall be

1 supplemented as provided in the request. If, within 14 working days after the date
2 of the department's submittal, the cochairpersons of the committee notify the
3 secretary that the committee intends to schedule a meeting to review the request, the
4 appropriation account shall be supplemented only as approved by the committee.

****NOTE: DVA should review this language. LRB says it needs to be done this way.

5 (2) HEALTH CARE AID. The department may provide to a veteran or the
6 dependent of a veteran temporary health care aid if the department considers it
7 advisable to prevent undue hardship. Health care aid to pay medical or hospital bills
8 under this subsection is limited to a payment of up to \$5,000 per veteran or
9 dependent for a 12-month period beginning on the first day of care for which the
10 person seeks reimbursement under this subsection. The department may issue a
11 certificate of entitlement stating that a veteran or dependent is eligible for health
12 care aid under this subsection if the treatment is received within a time period that
13 the department promulgates by rule. The department may not provide health care
14 aid to pay for care provided to the veteran or dependent before the time period
15 identified in the certificate of entitlement, except for emergency care, as determined
16 by the department, if the application for the health care aid is submitted within 90
17 days after the emergency care ends. Health care aid may be used to provide payment
18 for the treatment of alcoholism or other drug addiction or to provide payment for
19 health care required because of alcoholism or other drug addiction or alcohol or other
20 drug abuse. The department may not provide health care aid under this subsection
21 unless the person's health care provider agrees to accept, as full payment for the
22 medical treatment for which the aid is to be granted, the amount of the aid, the
23 amount of the person's health insurance or other 3rd-party payments, if any, and the
24 amount that the department determines the person is capable of paying. The

1 department may not provide health care aid under this subsection if the combined
 2 liquid assets of the veteran and veteran's dependents who are living in the same
 3 household are in excess of \$1,000.

✓ ***** Note: Is this actually a reimbursement to health care provider program? Fix to read that way?*

4 (3) APPROPRIATIONS. The department may provide aid under this section from
 5 the appropriation in s. 20.485 (2) (vm).[✓] Nothing in this section empowers the
 6 department to incur any state debt.

7 **45.41 Payments to veterans organizations.** (1) In this section:

8 (a) "Regional office" means the U.S. department of veterans affairs regional
 9 office in Wisconsin.

10 (b) "State veterans organization" means the state organization or department
 11 of a national veterans organization incorporated by an act of congress.

12 (2) Upon application the department shall make a payment to any state
 13 veterans organization that establishes that it, or its national organization, or both,
 14 has maintained a full-time service office at the regional office for 5 consecutive years
 15 out of the 10-year period immediately preceding the application. The payment shall
 16 be calculated based on the total amount of all salaries and travel expenses under sub.

17 (3)[✓] paid during the previous fiscal year by the state veterans organization to
 18 employees engaged in veterans claims service and stationed at the regional office.

19 The payment shall be as follows:

20 (a) If the total amount paid under sub. (3) is ^{from} ~~between~~ \$1 ^{to} and \$2,499, the
 21 organization shall receive the amount paid.

22 (b) If the total amount paid under sub. (3) is ^{from} ~~between~~ \$2,500 ^{to} and \$9,999, the
 23 organization shall receive \$2,500.

24 (c) If the total amount paid under sub. (3) is ^{from} ~~between~~ \$10,000 ^{to} and \$119,999, the
 25 organization shall receive 25% ^{SP} of the amount paid.

1 (d) If the total amount paid under sub. (3) is [✓] ~~more than~~ ^{or more} \$120,000, the
2 organization shall receive \$30,000.

3 (3) A state veterans organization shall file an application annually with the
4 department for the previous 12-month period ending on March 31 of the year in
5 which it is filed. The application shall contain a statement of salaries and travel
6 expenses paid to employees of the organization engaged in veterans claims service
7 activities at the regional office by the state veterans organization covering the period
8 for which application for a payment is made. The statement shall be certified as
9 correct by a certified public accountant licensed or certified under ch. 442[✓] and sworn
10 to as correct by the adjutant or principal officer of the state veterans organization.
11 The application shall include the state organization's financial statement for its
12 previous fiscal year and evidence of claims service activity that the department
13 requires. The state veterans organization shall submit with its initial application
14 sufficient evidence to establish that it or its national organization, or both, has
15 maintained a full-time service office at the regional office for 5 consecutive years out
16 of the 10-year period immediately preceding the application. Subsequent
17 applications shall be accompanied by an affidavit by the adjutant or principal officer
18 of the state veterans organization stating that the organization, on its own or with
19 its national organization, maintained a full-time service office at the regional office
20 for the entire 12-month period for which application for a payment is made.

21 (4) From the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (s),[✓] the department shall
22 annually provide a payment of \$100,000 to the Wisconsin department of the Disabled
23 American Veterans[✓] for the provision of transportation services to veterans.

1 **45.42 Veterans personal loans.** (1) It is determined that the loan program
2 established under this section is a special purpose credit program for an economically
3 disadvantaged class of persons for purposes of 15 USC 1691-1691f.

4 (2) The department may lend a veteran, a veteran's unremarried surviving
5 spouse, or a deceased veteran's child not more than \$25,000, or a lesser amount
6 established by the department under sub. (9).[✓] The department may prescribe loan
7 conditions, but the term of the loan may not exceed 10 years. The department shall
8 ensure that the proceeds of any loan made under this section shall first be applied
9 to pay any delinquent child support or maintenance payments owed by the person
10 receiving the loan and then to pay any past support, medical expenses, or birth
11 expenses owed by the person receiving the loan.

12 (3) The department may lend to the remarried surviving spouse of a deceased
13 veteran or to the parent of a deceased veteran's child not more than \$25,000, or a
14 lesser amount established by the department under sub. (9).[✓] for the education of the
15 deceased veteran's child.

16 (4) The department may execute necessary instruments, collect interest and
17 principal, compromise indebtedness, sue and be sued, post bonds, and write off
18 indebtedness that it considers uncollectible. If a loan under this section is secured
19 by a real estate mortgage, the department may exercise the rights of owners and
20 mortgagees generally and the rights and powers set forth in s. 45.32.[✓] The
21 department shall pay all interest and principal repaid on the loan into the veterans
22 trust fund.

23 (5) The department may charge loan expenses incurred under this section to
24 the loan applicant. The department shall pay all expenses received under this
25 subsection into the veterans trust fund.

1 (6) The department may provide a loan under this section to an applicant
2 whose name appears on the statewide support lien docket under s. 49.854 (2) (b) only
3 if the applicant does one of the following:

4 (a) Provides to the department a repayment agreement that the applicant has
5 entered into, that has been accepted by the county child support agency under s.
6 59.53 (5), and that has been kept current for the 6-month period immediately
7 preceding the date of the application.

8 (b) Provides to the department a statement that the applicant is not delinquent
9 in child support or maintenance payments and does not owe past support, medical
10 expenses, or birth expenses, signed by the department of workforce development or
11 its designee within 7 working days before the date of the application.

12 (c) Agrees to use the loan proceeds to pay any delinquent child support or
13 maintenance payments and to pay any past support, medical expenses, or birth
14 expenses if the applicant fails to meet the requirements under par. (a) or (b).

15 (7) No person may receive a loan under this section in an amount that, when
16 added to the balance outstanding on the person's existing loans under s. 45.351 (2),
17 1995 stats., and s. 45.356, 1995 stats., would result in a total indebtedness to the
18 department of more than \$25,000.

19 (8) (a) The department may borrow from the veterans mortgage loan
20 repayment fund under s. 45.37 (7) (a) to obtain money to make loans under this
21 section.

22 (b) The department may enter into transactions with the state investment
23 board to obtain money to make loans under this section. Transactions authorized
24 under this paragraph may include the sale of loans.

1 (9) Subject to the limit^s established in subs. (2) and (3), the department may
2 periodically adjust the maximum loan amount based upon financial market
3 conditions, funds available, needs of the veterans trust funds, or other factors that
4 the department considers relevant.

5 (10) The department may periodically adjust the interest rates for loans made
6 under this section, which may vary based upon the term of the loan, the type of
7 security offered, the method of payment, or other factors that the department
8 considers relevant.

9 (11) If an applicant's total indebtedness for loans made under this section is
10 more than \$5,000, the loan shall be evidenced by a promissory note and secured by
11 a mortgage on real estate located in this state. A loan of \$5,000 or less made to an
12 applicant whose total indebtedness for loans made under this section is \$5,000 or less
13 shall be evidenced by a promissory note and secured by a guarantor or by a mortgage
14 on real estate located in this state. A mortgage securing a loan made under this
15 section is acceptable if the applicant has equity in the property subject to the
16 mortgage equal to or exceeding a minimum amount that the department establishes
17 by rule.

18 **45.43 Veterans assistance program.** (1) The department shall administer
19 a program to provide assistance to persons who served in the U.S. armed forces or
20 in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces and who were discharged
21 under conditions other than dishonorable. The department shall provide assistance
22 to persons whose need for services is based upon homelessness, incarceration, or
23 other circumstances designated by the department by rule. The department shall
24 designate the assistance available under this section, which may include assistance
25 in receiving medical care, dental care, education, employment, and transitional

1 housing. The department may provide payments to facilitate the provision of
2 services under this section.

3 (2) The department may charge fees for transitional housing and for other
4 assistance provided under this section that the department designates. The
5 department shall promulgate rules establishing the fee schedule and the manner of
6 implementation of that schedule.

7 SUBCHAPTER V

8 VETERANS HOMES

9 **45.50 Veterans homes; management.** (1) (a) The department shall operate
10 the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and employ a commandant for the home. The
11 department may employ a commandant for the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union
12 Grove or the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. The department may
13 employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management and operation
14 of veterans homes. In compliance with the compensation plan established pursuant
15 to s. 230.12 (3),[✓] a commandant may recommend to the director of personnel charges
16 for meals, living quarters, laundry, and other services furnished to employees and
17 members of the employees' family maintained at veterans homes. The department
18 shall provide complete personal maintenance and medical care, including programs
19 and facilities that promote comfort, recreation, well-being, or rehabilitation, shall be
20 furnished to all members of veterans homes ^{to be} under policies established of the
21 department.

22 (b) All money ^{AS} received ^{AS} in reimbursement for services to veterans homes
23 employees or ^{AS} in payment for meals served to guests at veterans homes shall be
24 accumulated in an account named "employee maintenance credits" and shall be paid

1 into the general fund within one week after receipt and credited to the appropriation
2 under s. 20.485 (1) (gk).

3 (c) Veterans homes with a skilled nursing facility shall include a geriatric
4 evaluation, research and education program. The program staff shall be funded from
5 the appropriations under s. 20.485 (1) (hm), (j) and (mj).

6 (2) (a) Subject to authorization under ss. 13.48 (10) and 20.924 (1), the
7 department may construct or renovate and operate residential, treatment, and
8 nursing care facilities, including a community-based residential facility, to be known
9 as the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove.

10 (b) Subject to authorization under ss. 13.48 (10) and 20.924 (1), the department
11 may develop, construct or renovate, and operate residential, treatment, and nursing
12 care facilities and programs for veterans in northwestern Wisconsin, on the property
13 of the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa
14 Falls to be known as the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. The programs
15 and facilities may include an assisted living facility, a skilled nursing facility, a
16 medical clinic, an adult day health care center, an activities center, and a veterans
17 assistance program.

18 (3) The department may acquire, by gift, purchase, or condemnation, lands
19 necessary for the purposes of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove and the
20 Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Title to the lands shall be taken in the name of
21 this state and shall be held by and for the uses and purposes of the homes. No
22 payment may be made out of the state treasury or otherwise for the land until the
23 title has been examined and approved by the attorney general. Every such deed of
24 conveyance shall be immediately recorded in the office of the proper register of deeds
25 and filed with the secretary of state.

1 (4) The department may use moneys appropriated under s. 20.485 (1) (h) to
2 purchase, erect, construct, or remodel buildings, to provide additions and
3 improvements, to provide equipment, materials, supplies, and services necessary for
4 the purposes of veterans homes, and for expenses that are necessary and incidental
5 to acquisition of property under s. 45.51 (10) and (11).

6 (5) The department may accept gifts, bequests, grants, or donations of money
7 or of property from private sources to be administered by the department for the
8 purposes of veterans homes. All moneys received shall be paid into the general fund
9 and appropriated as provided in s. 20.485 (1) (h), except that gifts or grants received
10 specifically for the purposes of the geriatric program at veterans homes are
11 appropriated as provided in s. 20.485 (1) (hm). The department may not apply to the
12 gifts and bequests fund interest on certificate of savings deposits for those members
13 who do not receive maximum monthly retained income. The department shall
14 establish for those persons upon their request individual accounts with savings and
15 interest applied as the member requests.

16 (6) (a) The department may enter into agreements for furnishing and charging
17 for water and sewer service from facilities constructed at and for veterans homes to
18 public and private properties lying in the immediate vicinity of veterans homes.

19 (b) Agreements under this section shall be drafted to hold harmless the
20 department, to require all expense to be paid by the applicant, and to be terminable
21 by the department when other water and sewer services become available to the
22 applicant.

23 (7) A commandant and employees designated by the commandant may
24 summarily arrest all persons within or upon the grounds of veterans homes who are

1 guilty of any offense against the laws of this state or the rules governing veterans
2 homes. For this purpose, a commandant and deputies have the power of constables.

3 (8) A fire department at a veterans home in response to emergency fire calls
4 may make runs and render fire fighting service beyond the confines of a veterans
5 home.

6 (9) The department may develop a program to provide stipends to individuals
7 to attend school and receive the necessary credentials to become employed at
8 veterans homes. If the department develops a stipend program under this
9 subsection, the department shall promulgate rules related to the program, including
10 the application process, eligibility criteria, stipend amount, repayment provisions,
11 and other provisions that the department determines are necessary to administer
12 the program.

13 (10) The department may establish a hospital at the veterans homes. All
14 hospitals established under this subsection may not have a total approved bed
15 capacity, as defined in s. 150.01 (4m),[↓] greater than 16 beds. The approved bed
16 capacity of a skilled nursing facility operated at a veterans home is reduced by one
17 bed for each approved bed at the hospital established under this subsection[↓] at that
18 home.

19 **45.51 Eligibility for membership.** (1) GENERAL STATEMENT. Within the
20 limitations of veterans homes, the department may admit to membership in veterans
21 homes persons who meet the qualifications set forth in this section.

22 (2) ELIGIBILITY. (a) The following persons are eligible for benefits under this
23 subchapter[↓] if they meet the applicable requirements of this subchapter[↓]:

24 1. A veteran.

1 2. A person who has served on active duty under honorable conditions in the
2 U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces for 90
3 days or more and at least one day during a war period or under section 1 of executive
4 order 10957, dated August 10, 1961.

5 3. A spouse, surviving spouse, or parent of a person under subd. 1. or 2. ✓

6 (b) A person under par. (a) 1. or 2. may be admitted to a veterans home if the
7 person meets all of the following conditions:

8 1. ^{The person} Is a resident of this state on the date of admission to a veterans home.

9 2. ^{The person} Is permanently incapacitated due to physical disability or age from any
10 substantially gainful occupation.

11 ^{STET} 3. ^{The person} Has not been convicted of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude
12 or, if so, has produced sufficient evidence of subsequent good conduct and
13 reformation of character as to be satisfactory to the department.

14 4. ^{The person} Provides a complete financial statement containing information that the
15 department determines is necessary to evaluate the financial circumstances of the
16 person. The department may require a member of a veterans home to provide the
17 department with information necessary for the department to determine the
18 financial circumstances of the person. If a person fails to provide the additional
19 information, the department may discharge the person from the veterans home.

20 ^{STET} 5. ^{The person} Has care needs that the veterans home is able to provide within the resources
21 allocated for the care of members of the veterans home, including chronic alcoholism,
22 drug addition, psychosis, or active tuberculosis.

23 (3) ADMISSION PRIORITIES. (a) Except in cases where there is an immediate need
24 for physical care or economic assistance, the department shall act on applications
25 based upon the date of receipt of the application by the veterans home. The

1 department may defer establishment of the priority date of the application to the
2 date that the veterans home is able to verify its ability to provide appropriate care
3 to the applicant or to assure that the appropriate care setting is available within the
4 home.

5 (b) Spouses, surviving spouses, and parents derive their eligibility from the
6 eligibility of the person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. Surviving spouses and parents of
7 eligible persons under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. are eligible for admission only to a skilled
8 nursing facility at a veterans home.

9 (c) 1. The order of priority for admission to a veterans home shall be as follows:

10 a. Eligible persons under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. have 1st priority.

11 b. Spouses of eligible persons under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. have 2nd priority.

12 c. Surviving spouses of eligible persons under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. have 3rd
13 priority for admission.

14 d. Parents of eligible persons under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. have 4th priority for
15 admission.

16 2. The department may deviate from this sequence upon order of the board in

17 order to prevent the separation of a husband and wife.

18 (4) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF A SPOUSE OF A VETERAN. A spouse
19 of an eligible person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. is eligible only if the spouse meets the
20 requirements of sub. (2) (b) 3. to 5. and if all of the following apply:

21 (a) The person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. is a member, or if not a member is
22 institutionalized elsewhere because of physical or mental disability, and the spouse
23 had lived with the person for not less than 6 months immediately before making
24 application for membership.

1 (b) Separation from the spouse necessitated by reason of employment,
2 hospitalization, or because of a physical or mental disability of either spouse shall
3 not be taken to constitute an interruption of the 6-month period.

4 (c) A spouse of an eligible person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. by virtue of a marriage
5 that was void when entered into but validated under s. 765.21 before applying for
6 admission shall, for the purpose of this subsection and sub. (6), be considered
7 married to the eligible person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. from the date the marriage
8 was entered into.

9 (5) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF A SURVIVING SPOUSE. The surviving
10 spouse of a person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. who was a resident of this state at the
11 time of the veteran's death is eligible if the surviving spouse meets the requirements
12 of sub. (2) (b) 3. to 5. and if the surviving spouse satisfies all of the following
13 conditions:

14 (a) 1. The surviving spouse satisfies any of the following conditions:

15 a. Was married to and living with the deceased person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or
16 2. not less than 6 months immediately prior to the death of the person.

17 b. Was married to the person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. at the time the person
18 entered the service and who became a widow or widower by the death of the person
19 while in the service or as a result of physical disability of the person incurred during
20 the service.

21 c. The period during which the surviving spouse was married to and lived with
22 the deceased person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. plus the period of widowhood or
23 widowerhood is 6 months or more.

24 d. Was married to and living with the person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. less than
25 6 months and a child was born of the marriage.

- 1 (b) Has not remarried.
- 2 (c) Is 45 years of age or over on the date of application.
- 3 (d) Is physically disabled.
- 4 (e) Is unable adequately to care for himself or herself and lacks adequate means
- 5 of support.

- 6 (f) Has been a resident of this state for the 12 months immediately preceding
- 7 the date of application for membership.

8 **(6) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF PARENTS.** The parent of a person

9 under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. who was a resident of this state at the time of the person's

10 death or, the parent of a living person under sub. (2) (a) 1. or 2. who is eligible for

11 membership, is eligible if the parent meets the requirements of sub. (2) (b) 3. to 5.

12 and if the parent satisfies all of the following conditions:

- 13 (a) Has reached 60 years of age.
- 14 (b) Has been a resident of this state for the 12-months preceding the date of
- 15 application for membership.
- 16 (c) Is physically disabled, unable adequately to care for himself or herself, and
- 17 lacks adequate means of support.

18 **(7) MEMBER INCOME RETENTION AND PAYMENT.** (a) The board shall establish a pay

19 plan for compensation of members for services rendered to a veterans home under

20 its work therapy program.

- 21 (b) Members shall pay the amount due the state for care and maintenance of
- 22 the member within 30 days after the receipt of the veterans home's billing statement
- 23 by the member or by the member's personal representative. The department may
- 24 subject any bill not paid within 30 days after receipt of the billing statement to an
- 25 interest assessment of 1% per month or fraction of a month. If payment is not made

1 within 60 days after the receipt of the billing statement, the department may
2 discharge the member from the veterans home.

3 (c) Payment of amounts due the state for care and maintenance of a member
4 shall be made to the fullest extent possible from sources of income other than pension
5 or compensation paid by the U.S. department of veterans affairs.

6 (d) A member is not required to use income received from services rendered to
7 the veterans home under its work therapy program or from the sale of products or
8 services through the hobby shop as payment for the care or maintenance of the
9 member at the veterans home.

10 (e) The department shall supervise the operation of a veterans home exchange,
11 including the operation of the hobby shop for the sale of products made by all
12 members.

13 (8) PERSONAL FUNDS OF MEMBER. A member may, in writing, authorize a
14 veterans home to receive, hold, and account for his or her personal funds. Section
15 49.498 (8) ^{applies} and the rules promulgated under that subsection apply to the funds of a
16 member held by the veterans home under this subsection. The department may
17 transfer the personal funds of a member received under this subsection to the
18 Wisconsin veterans facilities members fund under s. 25.37. Upon request of the
19 member, the department shall pay the member the amount the member requests
20 from his or her personal account.

21 (9) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS. All moneys received under medical
22 assistance, as defined in s. 49.43 (8), for the care of members shall be transferred to
23 the appropriation under s. 20.485 (1) (gk).

24 (10) CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY; DESCENT. (a) Except as otherwise provided in
25 this subsection, the application and admission of any applicant admitted under this

1 section shall constitute a valid and binding contract between a member and the
2 department. If a member dies leaving a relative that is entitled to an interest in the
3 property of the member under the rules of intestate succession or a will the existence
4 of which is made known to the commandant of the veterans home within 60 days of
5 the member's death, the member's property shall constitute a part of the member's
6 estate, except ~~that~~ ^{the commandant may distribute to} personal effects of nominal monetary value of a deceased member
7 who is not survived by a member spouse ~~may be distributed by the commandant of~~
8 to surviving relatives of the member who request the personal effects within a
9 reasonable time after the member's death.

10 (b) The department may manage, sell, lease, or transfer property passing to
11 the state pursuant to this section or conveyed to it by members, defend and prosecute
12 all actions concerning it, pay all just claims against it, and do all other things
13 necessary for the protection, preservation, and management of the property. All
14 expenditures necessary for the execution of functions under this paragraph or sub.
15 (14) shall be made from the appropriation in s. 20.485 (1) (h).

16 (c) A person who at the time of death is a member of a veterans home is a
17 resident of the county in which the veterans home is located for the probate of the
18 person's will, issuance of letters testamentary or other letters authorizing the
19 administration of the decedent's estate, and the administration of the estate.

20 (11) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY PASSING TO STATE. If a member dies without a
21 relative who is entitled to an interest in the property of the member under the rules
22 of intestate succession and without leaving a will the existence of which is made
23 known to the commandant of the home within 60 days of the member's death, the
24 member's property shall be converted to cash, without administration. The
25 commandant of a veterans home shall submit that converted sum to the secretary

1 of administration to be paid into the appropriation under s. 20.485 (1) (h).[✓] The
2 amount paid to the secretary of administration is subject to refund within 6 years to
3 the estate of a member if it is subsequently discovered that the member left a will
4 or a relative that is entitled to an interest in the property of the member under the
5 rules of intestate succession or to any creditor of the member who establishes right
6 to the funds or property or any portion of the funds or property. The department of
7 administration, upon being satisfied that a claim out of the funds or property is legal
8 and valid, shall pay the claim out of the funds or property, except that payment of
9 claims for a member's funeral and burial expenses may not exceed a total of \$1,500[✓]
10 including any amount allowed by the United States for the member's funeral and
11 burial and the right for burial and interment provided in s. 45.61 ²(~~B~~)[✓].

12 (12) POWERS OF COMMANDANT OVER PERSONAL FUNDS OF MEMBERS. A commandant
13 may receive, disburse, and account for funds of members.

14 (13) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES. Any
15 person admitted to a skilled nursing facility at a veterans home shall meet the
16 eligibility requirements under ss. 49.45 and 49.46[✓] and rules promulgated under
17 those sections during residence at the skilled nursing facility except if any of the
18 following apply:

19 (a) Persons with sufficient income and resources to meet the expenses of care
20 for one or more months may be admitted to the skilled nursing facility but shall apply
21 income and resources to costs to the extent required ^{under} by ss. 49.45 and 49.46[✓] and rules
22 promulgated under those sections.

23 (b) Persons who meet all the requirements of this section but whose degree of
24 physical disability does not meet the minimum requirements ^{under} in ss. 49.45 and 49.46
25 and rules promulgated under those sections may be admitted to the skilled nursing

1 facility but shall apply income and resources to costs to the extent required by ss.
2 49.45 and 49.46[✓] and rules promulgated under those sections.

3 (14) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR OTHER CARE FACILITIES AT VETERANS
4 HOMES. An otherwise eligible person may be admitted to or remain in residency at
5 a community-based residential facility, as defined in s. 50.01 (1g)[✓] or a residential
6 care apartment complex, as defined in s. 50.01 (1d)[✓] at a veterans home only if the
7 person has sufficient income and resources, and applies the income and resources to
8 fully reimburse the department for the cost of providing care to the person.

9 SUBCHAPTER VI

10 FUNERALS, BURIALS AND CEMETERIES

11 **45.60 Military funeral honors**^(B)₍₆₎ ^(I)₍₂₎ PROGRAM. (a) The department shall
12 administer a program to coordinate the provision of military funeral honors to
13 deceased veterans.

14 (b) Military funeral honors may be provided by local units of member
15 organizations of the council on veterans programs, by local units of veterans
16 organizations certified by the department to provide military funeral honors, by
17 members of the Wisconsin national guard activated under s. 21.11 (3)[✓], or by staff of
18 the department.

19 (2) STIPENDS⁽⁶⁾ From the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (q)[✓], the department
20 shall reimburse a local unit of a member organization of the council on veterans
21 programs or a local unit of a veterans organization certified by the department to
22 provide military funeral honors for the costs of providing^(a) military funeral honors
23 to a deceased veteran. The reimbursement may not exceed \$50 for each funeral for
24 which military honors are provided.

1 (3) TUITION VOUCHER. (a) The department shall create a tuition voucher form
 2 to be used by funeral directors under par. (b). The department shall distribute copies
 3 of the tuition voucher form, plus an explanation of the form's use, to every operator
 4 of a funeral establishment. The department may not charge a fee for the tuition
 5 voucher form or for the distribution of the form.

6 (b) A funeral director may issue a tuition voucher in the amount of \$25 to an
 7 individual who sounds "Taps" on a bugle, trumpet, or cornet during each funeral for
 8 which military honors are held in this state for a deceased veteran and who is a
 9 student in grades 6 to 12 or at an institution of higher education, as defined under
 10 s. 895.515 (1) (b). The tuition voucher may be used at any time for the payment of
 11 tuition and required program activity fees at a University of Wisconsin System
 12 institution as provided under s. 36.27 (3r) or a technical college as provided under
 13 s. 38.24 (6). The department shall encourage private institutions of higher education
 14 to accept the vouchers. The vouchers are not transferable.

15 **45.61 Wisconsin veterans cemeteries.** (1) DEFINITION. In this section,

16 "eligible child" has the meaning given in s. 45.01 (5) (a) 2.

17 (2) CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF CEMETERIES. Subject to authorization
 18 under ss. 13.48 (10) and 20.924 (1), the department may construct and operate
 19 veterans cemeteries in central, northwestern, and southeastern Wisconsin and may
 20 employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management of the
 21 cemeteries. The cemetery in central Wisconsin is the Central Wisconsin Veterans
 22 Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery in southeastern Wisconsin is the Southern
 23 Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery in northwestern Wisconsin
 24 is the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The department may
 25 acquire, by gift, purchase, or condemnation, lands necessary for the purposes of the

1 cemeteries. Title to the properties shall be taken in the name of this state. Every
2 deed of conveyance shall be immediately recorded in the office of the proper register
3 of deeds and thereafter filed with the secretary of state. The department may accept
4 for the state all gifts, grants, and bequests for the purposes of maintenance,
5 restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation of the veterans cemeteries constructed
6 under this subsection. All cemeteries operated by the department are exempt from
7 the requirements of ss. 157.061 to 157.70 and 440.90 to 440.95.

8 (3) ELIGIBILITY. The following persons are eligible for burial at a cemetery
9 constructed and operated under sub. (1):

10 (a) A person who died while on active duty or who was discharged or released
11 from active duty in the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions and who was
12 a resident of this state at the time of his or her entry or reentry into active service
13 and his or her dependent child and surviving spouse.

14 (b) A person who was discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed
15 forces under honorable conditions and who was a resident of this state at the time
16 of his or her death and his or her dependent child and surviving spouse.

17 (c) The spouse or dependent child of a person who meets one of the following
18 conditions:

19 1. Is serving on active duty at the time of the spouse's or dependent child's death
20 if the person was a resident of this state at the time of his or her entry or reentry into
21 active service.

22 2. Was a resident of this state at the time of his or her entry or reentry into
23 active service and was discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed
24 forces under honorable conditions.

1 3. Was discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed forces under
2 honorable conditions if the person and spouse or dependent child were residents of
3 this state at the time of the spouse's or dependent child's death.

4 (d) A person who was a resident of this state at the time of his or her entry or
5 reentry into service in any national guard or a reserve component of the U.S. armed
6 forces or who was a resident of this state for at least 12 consecutive months
7 immediately preceding his or her death, and the person's spouse, surviving spouse,⁵
8 and dependent children, if the person is eligible for burial in a national cemetery
9 under 38 USC 2402.

10 (e) A person who was discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed
11 forces under honorable conditions and who was a resident of ^{this}the state for at least 12
12 consecutive months after entering or reentering service on active duty.

13 ³(4) FEES AND COSTS. The department may charge a fee for burials under this
14 section and may promulgate rules for the assessment of any fee. The cost of
15 preparing the grave and the erection of a marker for a person described under ^{sub. (2)}par.
16 (a), (b), (d), or (e) shall be paid from the appropriation under ^{s.}20.485 (1) (gk).

17 ⁴(5) APPLICATION. Application for burial shall be made to the department. The
18 surviving spouse of the person described under ^{sub. (2)}par. (a), (b), (d), or (e), if that person
19 is interred at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, shall have the
20 privilege of selecting a ^{plot}lot next to that person if available. The department shall hold
21 the plot for the surviving spouse for a period of one year from ^{the}date of granting the
22 privilege, but may extend the hold, on request, for additional one-year periods.

23 ⁵(6) EXPENSES. Expenses incident to the burial under this section shall be paid
24 from the estate of the decedent, except that if there is no estate or the estate is
25 insufficient, the expense of burial, or necessary part of the burial, shall be paid from

1 the appropriation under s. 20.485 (1) (gk)[✓] and the amount expended for those
2 expenses shall not exceed the amount established for funeral and burial expenses
3 under s. 49.785 (1) (b)[✓].

4 **45.62 Burial places compiled.** (1) The department may compile a record
5 of veteran's burial places located within the state that may, so far as practicable,
6 indicate all of the following information:

7 (a) The deceased veteran's name.

8 (b) The service in which the deceased veteran was engaged.

9 (c) The appropriate designation of the deceased veteran's armed forces unit.

10 (d) The deceased veteran's rank and period of service.

11 (e) The name and location of the cemetery or other place in which the deceased
12 veteran's body is interred.

13 (f) The location of the deceased veteran's grave in the cemetery or other place
14 of interment.

15 (g) The character of the headstone or other marker, if any, at the deceased
16 veteran's grave.

17 (2) The department may prepare blank forms for the transmission to the
18 department of the information required for the record under sub. (1)[✓]. The
19 department may distribute the forms to county veterans service officers. A county
20 veterans service officer within whose county any cemetery or other burial place is
21 located in which deceased veteran's bodies are interred shall submit the facts
22 required for the record under sub. (1)[✓] to the department on the forms provided by the
23 department, if so requested by the department.

24 SUBCHAPTER VII

25 MEMORIALS

1 **45.70 Veterans memorial.** (1) PERSIAN GULF MEMORIAL. From the
 2 appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (d), the department shall provide funding to the
 3 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., for the construction of a
 4 memorial for the veterans of the Persian Gulf war. The memorial shall be
 5 constructed at the veterans memorial site located at The Highground in Clark
 6 County. The department may expend up to \$60,000 for the memorial for the veterans
 7 of the Persian Gulf war.

8 (2) CAMP RANDALL MEMORIAL. (a) The board may approve, recommend and veto
 9 any proposed plans, modifications and changes or policies with respect to established
 10 state memorials, including the Camp Randall Memorial Park, Madison, Wisconsin,
 11 as described in par. (c), and any future veterans state memorials; and recommend the
 12 creation and establishment of veterans state memorials.

13 (b) No structures other than memorials approved by the board, and walks, roads,
 14 ~~and~~ ^{or} subterranean footings may be placed or erected upon Camp Randall Memorial
 15 Park unless authorized by the legislature; ^{no} nor shall the park be used for any purpose
 16 other than a memorial park.

17 (c) Camp Randall Memorial Park, Madison, Wisconsin, is established and
 18 described as follows: beginning on the west line of Randall Avenue 96.6 feet north
 19 of the center line of Dayton Street extended; thence west at right angles to Randall
 20 Avenue 370 feet; thence south parallel to Randall Avenue 722 feet; thence west at
 21 right angles to Randall Avenue 235 feet; thence south parallel to Randall Avenue 205
 22 feet to the north line of Monroe Street; thence north 50 degrees 14 minutes east along
 23 the north line of Monroe Street approximately 780 feet to the west line of Randall
 24 Avenue; thence north along the west line of Randall Avenue 429 feet to the place of
 25 beginning.

1 **45.71 Catalog of memorials.** The department shall prepare a catalog of
2 memorials, describing each memorial and giving its location and condition. The
3 department shall periodically update that catalog.

4 **45.72 County and municipal memorials.** (1) In this section and s. 45.73,
5 “local unit of government” means a city, village, town, or county. ✓

6 (2) Any local unit of government may by gift, purchase, contract, or
7 condemnation acquire property, real or personal, for the purpose of providing,
8 furnishing, constructing, erecting, repairing, maintaining, or conducting a suitable
9 memorial to the memory of former residents thereof who lost their lives in the
10 military or naval service of the state or of the United States, or to commemorate and
11 honor the deeds of persons, residents thereof, or of the state or United States, who
12 served the nation in any war, or other persons who rendered great state or national
13 service, or to the memory of any president of the United States, or for a combination
14 of any those purposes, which are declared to be public purposes.

15 (3) The local unit of government shall determine the character of the memorial,
16 and without limitation because of enumeration, the memorial may comprise a public
17 building, hospital, sanatorium, home for the aged or indigent, park, recreation
18 facility, community forest, or other suitable object having a public purpose.

19 (4) Any local unit of government may appropriate money and may levy a tax
20 ~~in order~~ to acquire, pay for, construct, erect, furnish, equip, operate, repair, maintain,
21 or reconstruct a suitable memorial for the purpose or purposes provided in this
22 section.

23 (5) Any local unit of government may authorize the use of any public property
24 respectively of such city, village, town, or county as a site for a memorial, and any

1 county may authorize its public property to be so used by any city, village, or town
2 in the county.

3 (6) Any local unit of government may by ordinance or contract provide for the
4 management, control, or operation of any memorial, ^{① The local unit of government} and it may enter into a written
5 lease, for a term not exceeding 25 years, with any duly chartered and incorporated
6 veterans organization established in the local unit of government, ^{which includes} such lease to
7 include provisions for the amount of rental and such conditions of public use as it may
8 determine. ^{① The lease shall include the amount} ^{the local unit of government}

9 (7) Any local unit of government may contract with or make an appropriation,
10 or both, to any other ^{local} unit of government or to any nonprofit corporation without
11 capital stock organized expressly for any of the purposes of this section or to any duly
12 chartered and incorporated veterans organization established in any such city,
13 village, town, or county, ^{the local unit of government} and for the purpose of raising funds for such memorial
14 purposes or contributions, ^{to the local unit of government} may levy taxes upon the taxable property located in the
15 county or municipality, ^{the local unit of government} or borrow money and issue the bonds of the respective
16 municipalities therefor in the manner and under the regulations provided by ch. 67
17 provided that the facilities of such memorial are ^{the} made ^{shall be} available to the residents of
18 the governmental unit making ^{the} such appropriation to the extent that the governing
19 body of the governmental unit may require.

20 **45.73 Sites for veterans memorial halls.** (1) Any local unit of government
21 may donate to any organization specified in s. 70.11 (9) land upon which is to be
22 erected a memorial hall to contain the memorial tablet specified in ^{s. 70.11 (9)} said section.

23 (2) The action of any local unit of government, in granting veterans
24 organizations or any other civic, patriotic, educational, or historical society, rooms
25 and space within public buildings for the establishment of memorial halls and

1 museums, and occupancy thereof by its members, is authorized and confirmed. The
 2 local unit of government may permit the use and occupancy of ^{the} such rooms and space
 3 for ^{as such} such term and subject to ^{such} conditions and provisions as ^{the local unit of government may impose} may be imposed by them.
 4 Any contract, ^{plain} lien, or agreement between the local unit of government and any
 5 organization now in force shall continue in force according to the terms of the
 6 contract, lien, or agreement.

7 **45.74 Memorial corporations organized under 1919 act.** Any commission
 8 or board of trustees ^{that} which governs a corporation organized to construct a memorial
 9 under s. 45.057 (5), statutes of 1919 to 1943 (created by chapter 598, laws of 1919,
 10 and repealed by chapter 301, laws of 1945), shall have the following powers in
 11 addition to those it now has:

12 ^{STET} (a) All powers vested in the members of ^{the} such corporation by the articles of
 13 incorporation or bylaws, including the power to amend the articles of incorporation.

14 ^{STET} (b) The powers set forth in s. 181.0302 and all other applicable provisions of ch.
 15 181.

16 (c) ^{The power to} It may convey any property under its control to any municipality and lease
 17 it back under terms agreed upon by the commission or board of trustees and the
 18 municipality.

19 ⁽¹²⁾ (d) ^{The commission or board of trustees} It shall have a membership composed of 5 residents of the city, village, or
 20 town in which the memorial is located, one appointed by the common council, village
 21 board, or town board of the city, village, or town, and 4 by the circuit judge of the
 22 county in which the memorial is located. The commission or board may appoint 4
 23 additional members who are residents of this state. The terms of all members shall
 24 be 5 years. In order that terms of members may expire at different times, not more
 25 than 2 members shall be appointed in any one year in addition to appointments made

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1 to fill vacancies occurring by resignation or death. Members shall hold office until
2 their successors are appointed and qualify.

3 (e) It may ^{the power to} dissolve the corporation and dispose of the real and personal property
4 of the corporation in a manner ^{that} which it deems will best serve the purposes for which
5 it was organized and the interests of the community.

6 (2) Notwithstanding the repeal of s. 45.057, 1943 stats., by chapter 301, laws
7 of 1945, the continuing existence of all commissions, boards, and corporations
8 organized under s. 45.057 (5), statutes of 1919 to 1943, is affirmed, and the
9 continuing operation of such commissions, boards and corporations is ratified as to
10 the past and authorized in the future.

11 **45.75 Memorials in populous counties.** (1) Any county having a population
12 of 500,000 or more may establish and maintain a memorial or memorials ^{located in the county} under s.
13 45.72 by agreement between the county board of the county and any nonprofit
14 private corporation without capital stock organized under the laws of this state,
15 except as provided in this section, expressly for any of the purposes of s. 45.72 ^{located}
16 in the county.

17 (2) The board of directors of the corporation shall be designated as the
18 "memorial board", and its members shall be called "trustees". The membership of
19 the memorial board may include special members, who need not be members of the
20 corporation.

21 (3) The memorial board shall consist of 15 members; ^g of whom 8 may be special
22 members to be elected as provided in this section; ^g and the remaining members shall
23 be elected from the membership of the corporation.

24 (4) Special members of the memorial board shall be elected by the county board
25 of such county and consist of the following:

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1 (a) Four members from the county board.

2 (b) Four members elected from among the residents of the county.

3 (5) Terms of members of the memorial board shall be as follows:

4 (a) For special members:

5 1. Members elected from the county board shall be elected at the first meeting
6 of the county board following each county board general election and their terms
7 shall commence on that date. They shall hold office during their terms on the county
8 board and until their successors are elected and qualified.

9 2. Members elected from among the residents shall hold office for 4 years and
10 until their successors are elected, except that the first 4 such members shall be
11 chosen for 1, 2, 3, and 4 years, respectively.

12 3. Any vacancy in ^{the} such special membership shall be filled by the county board
13 for the unexpired term, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

14 (b) For elected members from the corporate membership: ~~The~~ terms of the
15 trustees shall be for such numbers of years that those of an equal number, as nearly
16 as may be, shall expire in 2, 3, and 4 years, and successive terms of 4 years each
17 thereafter and until their successors are elected and qualified.

18 (6) The articles of incorporation of the corporation shall provide originally or
19 by amendment, in addition to other necessary provisions, and as permitted by this
20 section, for the classification of the members of the corporation, for the election of
21 trustees proportionately from and by those classifications, for the terms of the
22 members of the corporation and for the officers, their duties, and the terms thereof
23 to be elected from the membership.

24 (7) The war memorial may be constructed upon any land ceded before July 15,
25 1953 by this state to any municipality in this state notwithstanding any restrictions,

1 limitations or conditions as to the nature of the use of any ^{of} the land contained in the
 2 legislative act, granting the land to the municipality, and notwithstanding the
 3 restrictions, limitations or conditions incorporated in any subsequent conveyance of
 4 the lands by the municipality.

5 (8) The war memorial may be constructed in any public park and the use of
 6 those park lands as a location for a war memorial shall not be considered inconsistent
 7 with the use of the same for park purposes. No war memorial shall be constructed
 8 in a public park until the park commission, general manager appointed under s.
 9 27.03 (2) or park board having jurisdiction of the park shall approve the construction.
 10 The county board of any county may authorize the construction of a war memorial
 11 at different intervals of time if the proposed memorial consists of more than one
 12 building or structure and any county board subsequently elected shall carry into
 13 effect any contract authorized by s. 45.72 entered into on behalf of the county for the
 14 construction or maintenance of the war memorial. The construction, maintenance,
 15 and operation of a war memorial in a county park shall be subject to the jurisdiction
 16 of the county board and no part of those costs shall be charged against the funds of
 17 the park commission, park system or park board of the county.

SUBCHAPTER VIII

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

20 **45.80 County veterans service officer.** (1) ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT. (a)
 21 Except as provided under par. (b), the county board shall elect a county veterans
 22 service officer who shall be a Wisconsin resident who served on active duty under
 23 honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the
 24 U.S. armed forces and who meets at least one of the conditions listed in s. 45.01 (12)
 25 (a) to (d) and at least one of the conditions listed in s. 45.02 (2).

1 (b) Except as provided under par. (c), the county board may appoint assistant
2 county veterans service officers who shall be Wisconsin residents who served on
3 active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces
4 incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces and who meet at least one of the
5 conditions listed in s. 45.01 (12) (a) to (d) and at least one of the conditions listed in
6 s. 45.02 (2).

7 (c) In counties with a county executive or county administrator, the county
8 executive or county administrator shall appoint and supervise a county veterans
9 service officer who shall have the qualifications prescribed under par. (a). The
10 appointment is subject to confirmation by the county board unless the county board,
11 by ordinance, elects to waive confirmation or unless the appointment is made under
12 a civil service system competitive examination procedure established under s. 59.52
13 (8) or ch. 63.

14 (2) TERM. A county veterans service officer elected under sub. (1) (a) shall serve
15 until the first Monday in January of the 2nd year subsequent to the year of his or her
16 election, and, if reelected, shall continue to serve unless removed under s. 17.10 (2).

17 (3) SALARY. The salary of the county veterans service officer shall be fixed by
18 the county board prior to or at the time of the service officer's election and annually
19 thereafter.

20 (4) MILWAUKEE COUNTY. In counties having a population of 500,000 or more
21 ~~such~~ ^{the} officer shall be appointed subject to ss. 63.01 to 63.17.

22 (5) DUTIES. The county veterans service officer shall do all of the following:

23 (a) Advise persons living in the service officer's county who served in the U.S.
24 armed forces regarding any benefits to which they may be entitled or any complaint

1 or problem arising out of such service and render to them and their dependents all
2 possible assistance.

3 (b) Make such reports to the county board as the county board requires.

4 (c) Cooperate with federal and state agencies ^{that} which serve or grant aids or
5 benefits to former military personnel and their dependents.

6 (d) Furnish information about veterans burial places within the county as
7 required by s. 45.62 (2).[✓]

8 (e) Perform the duties prescribed by law, including those duties under pars. (a)
9 to (d),[✓] separately and distinctly from any other county department.

10 (6) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES. The county veterans service officer may do any of the
11 following:

12 (a) Inform persons living in the service officer's county who are members of the
13 national guard or of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces or dependents of those
14 persons regarding potential benefits to which they may be or may become entitled
15 and regarding all necessary military points of contact and general deployment
16 information for activated and deployed members of the national guard or reserve
17 units of the U.S. armed forces.

18 (b) Cooperate with federal and state agencies that serve or grant aids or
19 benefits to members of the national guard or reserve units of the U.S. armed forces
20 and their dependents.

21 (7) OFFICE SPACE AND ASSISTANTS. (a) The county board shall provide the county
22 veterans service officer with office space, clerical assistance and any other needs
23 ^{that} which will enable the officer to perform the duties under sub. (5).[✓]

24 (b) Except as provided under par. (c),[✓] the county board may appoint assistant
25 county veterans service officers who shall be Wisconsin residents who served on

1 active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces
2 incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces for 2 consecutive years. An individual
3 who is discharged for reasons of hardship or a service-connected disability or
4 released due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces or for the good of the service prior
5 to the completion of the required period of service is eligible for appointment to the
6 office, regardless of the actual time served.

7 (c) In any county with a county executive or county administrator, the county
8 veterans service officer may appoint assistant county veterans service officers who
9 shall have the qualifications prescribed under par. (b).

10 (8) GRANTS TO COUNTIES AND TRIBES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES. (a) Each
11 county may annually apply to the department for a grant for the improvement of
12 service to former military personnel of the county through the county veterans
13 service office. A county may not allocate any portion of a grant for use by another
14 county department nor may the county reduce funding to a county veterans service
15 office based upon receipt of a grant. The county veterans service officer of any county
16 applying for the grant shall enter into an agreement with the department. The
17 agreement shall state the goals and objectives to be attained by the county veterans
18 service office during the remainder of the year covered by the grant application. The
19 department shall prepare the basic form of this agreement in consultation with the
20 county veterans service officers association and provide a copy and an explanation
21 of that agreement to each county veterans service officer. The department shall
22 develop reasonable budget and operating standards to assure improved services, but
23 full operating control of the county office shall be left to each county.

24 (b) The department shall award a grant annually to a county that meets the
25 standards developed under this subsection and employs a county veterans service

1 officer who, if chosen after August 9, 1989, is chosen from a list of candidates who
2 have taken a civil service examination for the position of county veterans service
3 officer developed and administered by the division of merit recruitment and selection
4 in the office of state employment relations, or is appointed under a civil service
5 competitive examination procedure under ch. 63 or s. 59.52 (8) ^{or ch. 63} The grant shall be
6 \$8,500 for a county with a population of less than 20,000, \$10,000 for a county with
7 a population of 20,000 to 45,499, \$11,500 for a county with a population of 45,500 to
8 74,999, and \$13,000 for a county with a population of 75,000 or more. The
9 department shall use the most recent Wisconsin official population estimates
10 prepared by the demographic services center when making grants under this
11 paragraph.

12 (c) Notwithstanding par. (b), an eligible county with a part-time county
13 veterans service officer shall be eligible for an annual grant not exceeding \$500.

14 (d) The department shall provide grants to the governing bodies of federally
15 recognized American Indian tribes and bands from the appropriation under s. 20.485
16 (2) (vz) if that governing body enters into an agreement with the department
17 regarding the creation, goals, and objectives of a tribal veterans service officer,
18 appoints a veteran to act as a tribal veterans service officer and gives that veteran
19 duties similar to the duties described in ^{Sub.} s. 45.80 (5), except that the veteran shall
20 report to the governing body of the tribe or band. The department may make annual
21 grants of up to \$2,500 under this paragraph and shall promulgate rules to implement
22 this paragraph.

23 (9) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES GRANTS TO COUNTIES. (a) Annually, from the
24 appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (s), the department shall award grants to counties
25 that are not served by transportation services provided by the Wisconsin department

1 of Disabled American Veterans to develop, maintain, and expand transportation
2 services for veterans. The grants may be used to support multicounty cooperative
3 transportation services.

4 (b) The department shall promulgate rules specifying the application
5 procedures and eligibility criteria for grants under this subsection.

6 (c) A county may not reduce funding to a county veterans service office based
7 upon receipt of a grant.

(CS) Applicability

8 (10) ~~QUALIFICATIONS APPLICATION~~ The qualifications necessary to be a county
9 veterans service officer or assistant county veterans service officer under subs. (1)

10 (a) and (b) apply only to persons elected to serve as county veterans service officers
11 or assistant county veterans service officers on or after June 1, 1996, and who have
12 not served as county veterans service officers or assistant county veterans service
13 officers before June 1, 1996.

14 **45.81 County veterans service commission.** (1) There is created in each
15 county a county veterans service commission consisting of 3 residents of the county
16 who are veterans appointed for staggered 3-year terms by the county executive or
17 county board chairperson in a county that does not have a county executive.

18 (2) The commission shall be organized by the election of one of their number
19 as chairperson. The county executive or county board chairperson in a county ^{that} which
20 does not have a county executive after the expiration of the terms of those first
21 appointed shall annually on or before the 2nd Monday in December appoint one
22 person as a member of the commission for the term of 3 years. The county executive
23 or county board chairperson shall require each member of the commission and the
24 county veterans service officer to execute to the county an individual surety bond,
25 with sufficient sureties to be approved by the county executive or county board

1 chairperson, each bond to be in an amount equal to the tax levied in the current year
2 for expenditure by the commission. Each bond shall be filed with the county clerk.

3 (3) (a) Except as provided under sub. (4), the commission may furnish aid to
4 any person described in s. 45.85 if the right of that person to aid is established to the
5 commission's satisfaction.

6 (b) The secretary of the commission shall maintain a list containing the name,
7 place of residence, and amount of aid ^{furnished} paid to each person under par. (a), which shall
8 be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the commission.

9 (c) The total disbursements made by the commission under this subsection may
10 not exceed the amount collected from the tax levied, except when specifically
11 authorized by the county board. The commission shall provide the county treasurer
12 with sufficient information to deliver the specified aid to the person entitled to that
13 aid.

14 (d) The commission may furnish aid in a different manner than by supplying
15 money. The commission may request the county treasurer to pay a purveyor of
16 services or commodities for the purchase of services or commodities, or the
17 commission may furnish supplies, as it considers appropriate.

18 (e) The commission shall make a detailed report to the county board annually
19 showing the amount expended under this subsection. The report may not include
20 any personal identifying information regarding the persons that received aid under
21 this subsection.

22 (4) A county veterans service officer appointed under s. 45.80 (1) (b) or (4) shall
23 have the administrative powers and duties prescribed for the county veterans service
24 commission under sub. (2).