



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 429

Assembly Amendments 1 to 4

Memo published: January 24, 2012

Contact: Mike Queensland, Staff Attorney (266-3810)

Under *current law*, a number of state agencies and boards (“licensing agencies”) regulate professions and occupations by issuing licenses, permits, or other credentials (“licenses”).

2011 Assembly Bill 429 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to establish a program under which licensing agencies grant fee waivers to qualified veterans who are applying for certain professional and occupational licenses. In order to qualify for the fee waiver, an applicant must be an individual, a resident of the state, and a veteran, as defined in s. 45.01 (12) (a) to (f), Stats.; and cannot have received a previous fee waiver under the program for any type of license.

Assembly Amendment 1 delays the effective date of the bill to the “first day of the 3rd month beginning after publication.”

Assembly Amendment 2 further specifies that the bill only provides a fee waiver to qualified individuals applying for an *initial* license, not a license renewal.

Assembly Amendment 3 makes several technical changes to the bill. For example, it clarifies that DVA is the state agency responsible for verifying that an individual is qualified for a fee waiver. Additionally, it replaces the word “approval” with the phrase “a license or permit” where the latter phrase is more accurate. It also provides a needed cross-reference in a Department of Natural Resources provision to the veterans fee waiver program created by the bill.

Assembly Amendment 4 expands eligibility for the fee waiver program to members of the U.S. armed forces or National Guard who have served under honorable conditions for at least one year and persons discharged from a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or National Guard if that discharge was an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Additionally, the amendment makes a needed technical change.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendments 1, 2, and 3 were offered by Representative Wynn. Assembly Amendment 4 was offered by Representative Kooyenga. On January 19, 2012, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs recommended adoption of amendments 1, 2, 3, and 4 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of Assembly Bill 429, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

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