



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 295
[2017 Assembly Bill 732]

**Veterans Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Pilot Program**

2017 Wisconsin Act 732 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) 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. The Act appropriates \$180,000 for fiscal year 2017-18 and \$719,800 for fiscal year 2018-19 to fund the pilot program. The Act sunsets the pilot program after fiscal year 2019.

The Act also requires DVA to submit a report, on a quarterly basis, to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Finance that includes the following information: (1) the number of veterans served and the services provided to veterans under the pilot program; and (2) the types of insurance a veteran has at the time the veteran receives a service under the pilot program. The report that is due on December 30, 2018, shall include a summary of the administrative expenses for the program and DVA's recommendations for whether to continue or expand the pilot program. Finally, the Act authorizes 8.0 full-time equivalent project positions within DVA for the purpose of administering the pilot program and providing outreach, treatment, and support.

Effective date: The provisions establishing the pilot program took effect on April 18, 2018. The sunset provision takes effect on July 1, 2019.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.