



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2011 Senate Bill 338**

**Assembly Amendments 1 and 2**

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

*Senate Bill 338, as passed by the Senate (with Senate Amendments 1 and 2 adopted)*, 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 (rather than a business); 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. Further, the fee waiver is available only to a veteran who is applying for an *initial* license, not a license renewal. The bill has a three-month delayed effective date.

*Assembly Amendment 1* 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 beginning on the date of enlistment and to persons discharged from a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or from the National Guard, if that discharge was an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.

*Assembly Amendment 2* clarifies that DVA is the state agency responsible for verifying that an individual is qualified for a fee waiver. In addition, the amendment makes some technical changes to the bill, including replacing the word “approval” with the phrase “a license or permit” where the latter is more appropriate, and providing a needed cross-reference in a Department of Natural Resources statute to the veterans fee waiver program created in the bill.

**Legislative History**

On January 17, 2012, the Senate passed Senate Bill 338, as amended by Senate Amendments 1 and 2, on a vote of Ayes, 32; and Noes, 0.

In the Assembly, Representatives Wynn and Kooyenga introduced *Assembly Amendment 1* and Representative Wynn introduced *Assembly Amendment 2*. On February 21, 2012, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 and concurred in the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 93; and Noes, 1. The bill has been messaged back to the Senate for action on Assembly Amendments 1 and 2.

PS:jal