



## 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 522

October 27, 2009 - Introduced by Representatives LOTHIAN, SCHNEIDER, NASS, JORGENSEN, BROOKS, VOS, BIES, SPANBAUER, PETERSEN, NERISON, TOWNSEND and SUDER, cosponsored by Senators LASSA, SCHULTZ and LEHMAN. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 45.05 of the statutes; **relating to:** veterans records with the  
2           register of deeds.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Currently, a veteran who has been honorably discharged or given a certificate of service or relieved from active service may record the certificate of discharge or release with the county register of deeds. Under current law, the recorded certificate is accessible only to the veteran, the veteran's dependents, a duly authorized representative of the veteran, the county veterans service officer, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or a person with written authorization from the veteran or the veteran's dependents. Currently, "duly authorized representative" includes a person with written authorization from the veteran, or if no representative is authorized in writing, the veteran's spouse, adult child, or the parents of an unmarried veteran.

This bill expands what can be recorded in the register of deeds office to include documents that the county veterans service officer considers necessary and appropriate for recording. The bill also limits a dependent's access to the veteran's records to allow that access only if the veteran is deceased.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3           **SECTION 1.** 45.05 of the statutes is amended to read:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 522****SECTION 1**

1           **45.05 Registration of certificate of discharge.** Every person who has  
2 served in the U.S. armed forces at any time, and who has been honorably discharged  
3 or given a certificate of service or relieved from active service may record with the  
4 register of deeds of any county, in a suitable book provided by the county for that  
5 purpose, a certificate of discharge or release, or documents that the county veterans  
6 service officer considers necessary and appropriate for recording. The certificate  
7 documents recorded under this section shall be accessible only to the discharged  
8 person or that person's ~~dependents~~ or duly authorized representative, as defined in  
9 s. 45.04 (1) (a), the county veterans service officer, the department, the person's  
10 dependents if the discharged person is deceased, or any person with written  
11 authorization from the discharged person or that discharged person's dependents if  
12 the discharged person is deceased. The register of deeds may not charge for  
13 recording, except that in counties where the register of deeds is under the fee system  
14 and not paid a fixed salary, the county shall pay the fee specified in s. 59.43 (2) (ag).  
15 The record of any certificate of discharge or release made prior to July 6, 1919, is  
16 legalized.

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**(END)**