



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 541

November 24, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives VANDERMEER, ALLEN, BALLWEG, BERNIER, BROSTOFF, EDMING, T. LARSON, MACCO, MILROY, MURPHY, A. OTT, PETRYK and SKOWRONSKI, cosponsored by Senators PETROWSKI, CARPENTER, DARLING, HARSDOFF, LEMAHIEU, MARKLEIN, MOULTON, OLSEN, RINGHAND, L. TAYLOR and VINEHOUT. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 20.485 (2) (q) and 45.435; and **to create** 20.485 (2) (qm) and
2 45.437 of the statutes; **relating to:** a veterans employment and
3 entrepreneurship grant program, veteran employment grants, granting
4 rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill eliminates a veteran employment grant program and creates a veterans employment and entrepreneurship grant program. Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) may grant certain amounts to employers for each veteran or disabled veteran the employers hire, subject to specific limitations.

This bill eliminates that grant program. Instead, the bill creates a program under which DVA may, beginning in the 2016-17 fiscal year, make up to \$500,000 in grants each year to veterans, employers, and nonprofit organizations to improve employment outcomes for veterans in this state. Specifically, the bill authorizes DVA to award grants to assist veteran entrepreneurs, to give employers in this state incentives to hire veterans, especially disabled veterans, to help fund employment training for veterans, especially disabled veterans, and for other programs or purposes as determined by DVA.

The bill requires DVA to promulgate rules establishing the goals grant recipients must meet before receiving any grant moneys. The bill also requires DVA to submit an annual report concerning the grant program to the governor and the legislature.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

	2015-16	2016-17
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4 **20.485 Veterans affairs, department of**

5 (2) LOANS AND AIDS TO VETERANS

6 (qm) Veterans employment and entre-

preneurship grants	SEG	A	–0–	500,000
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8 **SECTION 2.** 20.485 (2) (q) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55,
9 is repealed.

10 **SECTION 3.** 20.485 (2) (qm) of the statutes is created to read:

11 20.485 (2) (qm) *Veterans employment and entrepreneurship grants.* The
12 amounts in the schedule for the payment of veterans employment and
13 entrepreneurship grants under s. 45.437.

14 **SECTION 4.** 45.435 of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is
15 repealed.

16 **SECTION 5.** 45.437 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **45.437 Veterans employment and entrepreneurship grant program.**

18 (1) DEFINITION. In this section, “disabled veteran” means a veteran who is verified
19 by the department to have a service-connected disability rating of at least 50 percent
20 under 38 USC 1114 or 1134.

