

FISCAL ESTIMATE  
DOA-2048 N(R10/94)

ORIGINAL       UPDATED  
 CORRECTED       SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
99-AB 674, LRB 3130/2

Amendment No. if Applicable

**Subject**  
VETERANS BENEFITS, FACILITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

**Fiscal Effect**

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget  Yes  No

Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

Local:  No local government costs

1.  Increase Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory

3.  Increase Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

GPR    FED    PRO    PRS    SEG    SEG-S

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This bill makes a number of changes relating to the veterans homes and facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and makes changes to some of the programs administered by the Department.

1. The department currently has statutory authority to construct and operate residential, treatment and nursing care facilities in southeastern Wisconsin. This bill includes language that implements this authority and to treat the residents of the southeastern facilities in the same manner as the residents at the veterans facilities at King. These include: members are considered residents of the respective town and county; federal per diem funds can be utilized for both facilities; the members fund applies to both facilities; residents may receive an annual fishing license at no charge; the facilities are subject to the regulation of nursing homes to the same extent as King; and the membership and eligibility criteria are identical to the criteria for King with one exception. Residents for facilities at the southern facility must have sufficient income and resources to pay for the cost at the facility. This portion of the bill will have no fiscal impact.
2. The bill authorizes the Department to enter into contracts to collect delinquent loan payments and to release confidential information on the veteran to the contractors. The department is currently in the process of contracting with a vendor to provide this service. This is a technical change to ensure that statutory authority exists to contract for collection services in order to prevent any legal challenges to the department's use of such services. Therefore, this portion of the bill will not have a fiscal impact.
3. The bill adds proprietary schools to the types of schools for which veterans can receive training funds under the Retraining Grant Program. It is estimated this provision will result in up to an additional 30 grant applications per year. The maximum retraining grant is \$3,000. Therefore, the estimated fiscal impact of this provision is \$90,000 annually.
4. The bill eliminates the income limitations for providing a housing loan. Instead, standard industry underwriting criteria will be used to determine the amount of the housing loan a veteran may receive subject to the maximum loan permitted by statute. This provision will have no fiscal impact.
5. The Department currently uses funds to defray the costs of the annual convention and publications of the veterans of World War I. The bill provides that these funds will be used by the Veterans Museum to provide exhibits and educational materials regarding World War I veterans. This portion of the bill will have no fiscal effect.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

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Date

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