

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on  
Veterans and  
Military Affairs  
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **99hr\_ab0448\_AC-VMA\_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ \*\*

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ \*\*



## **BILL SUMMARY**

**AB 448: Vietnam Veteran Eligibility for Veterans Benefits**

**Date: November 10, 1999**

### **BACKGROUND**

Under current law, various programs are available to Wisconsin Veterans, with various eligibility requirements for these benefits. One of the eligibility requirements for certain programs is service during a specific war period. In the Wisconsin Statutes, service during the Vietnam War period is defined as 1964 to 1977 for some benefits and 1964 to 1975 for others. Therefore, all Vietnam Veterans are not eligible for the same programs funded by the Veterans Trust Fund.

### **SUMMARY OF AB 448**

Assembly Bill 448 changes the ending date for the Vietnam War period to January 1, 1977, for purposes of eligibility for Wisconsin veterans benefits. This will create consistency for Vietnam Veterans. Programs affected are the Health Care Aid Grant, Subsistence Aid Grant, Part-time Study Grant, Retraining Grant and the Personal Loan Program.

### **AMENDMENTS**

None.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

A fiscal estimate, prepared by the WI Department of Veterans Affairs, indicates that approximately 200 Vietnam Veterans may be affected, with an estimated fiscal effect of less than \$10,000 (SEG) which can be absorbed within the Department's current budget for these programs.

### **PROS**

This bill will ensure that all veterans who served during the Vietnam War period are eligible for the same Wisconsin veterans benefits.

### **CONS**

None.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Rep. Terry Musser, author; John Scocos, WDVA; LTC McArdle, WDMA; Brig. Gen. Wilkening, WDMA; Marvin Freedman, Vietnam Veterans of America.

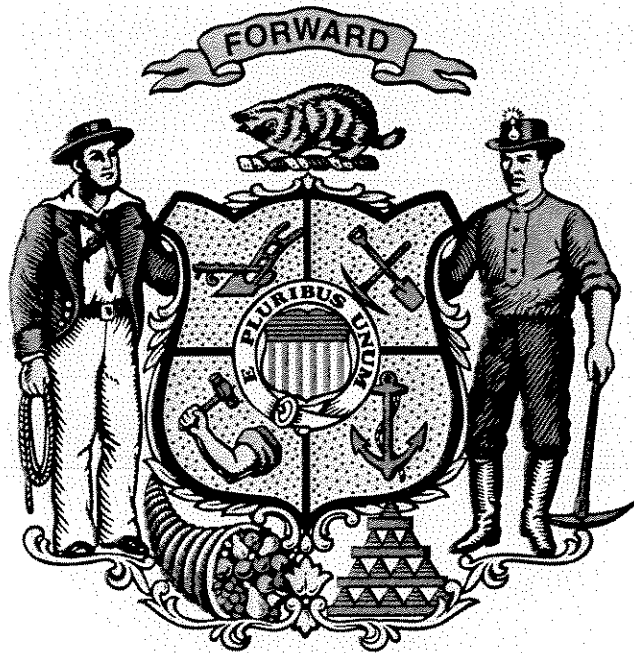
### **OPPOSITION**

No one registered or testified in opposition to Assembly Bill 448.

### **HISTORY**

Assembly Bill 448 was introduced on September 9, 1999, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. A public hearing was held on September 15, 1999. On September 15, 1999, the Committee voted 9-0 to recommend passage of AB 448.

**CONTACT:** Marlene Reineking, Office of Rep. Terry Musser



Testimony By  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MUSSER

ASSEMBLY BILL 448

January 26, 2000

Act 59

**GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this bill.

Under current law, various programs are available to Wisconsin Veterans, with various eligibility requirements for these benefits. One of the eligibility requirements for certain programs is service during a specific war period.

In the Wisconsin Statutes, service during the Vietnam War period is defined as 1964 to 1977 for some benefits and 1964 to 1975 for others. Therefore, all Vietnam Veterans are not eligible for the same programs funded by the Veterans Trust Fund.

Assembly Bill 448 changes the ending date for the Vietnam War period to January 1, 1977, for purposes of eligibility for Wisconsin veterans benefits.

This will create consistency for Vietnam Veterans. Programs affected are the Health Care Aid Grant, Subsistence Aid Grant, Part-time Study Grant, Retraining Grant and the Personal Loan Program.

This change may affect approximately 200 Vietnam Veterans. Those Veterans deserve their benefits. This will cost less than \$10,000 (SEG) which can be absorbed within the Department's current budget for these programs.

This bill will ensure that all veterans who served during the Vietnam War period are eligible for the same Wisconsin veterans benefits.

I urge you to recommend this bill for passage.

Thank you.