

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 848

February 25, 2002 – Introduced by Representatives MUSSER and RYBA. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 45.21; and **to create** 45.36 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 release of information regarding a veteran and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the department of veterans affairs (DVA) receives records and documents related to the status of veterans, including personal identification information and information evidencing the veteran's service in the U.S. armed forces. DVA creates files based on these records and documents and uses the information in those records and documents to determine if the veteran and his or her dependents are eligible for benefits from DVA or from the U.S. department of veterans affairs. Current law requires DVA to establish rules regarding the disclosure of those records and generally prohibits their disclosure except for official purposes.

Under current law, a veteran may record his or her certificate of discharge or release from service at the register of deeds office. That certificate is available only to the veteran, the veteran's dependents, the county veterans service officer, DVA, and persons with written authorization from the veteran or the veteran's dependents.

This bill creates a forfeiture of not to exceed \$1,000 for releasing to any unauthorized person any record or document in the possession of DVA or the register of deeds containing confidential information regarding a veteran.

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

