## 2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 409

June 12, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives Musser, Boyle, Bies, Schneider, Pettis, Gronemus, Kreibich, Travis, Suder, Freese, McCormick, Morris, Gunderson, Turner, Kestell, Hines, Vrakas, Krawczyk, Van Roy, Ott, M. Lehman, Albers, Berceau, Nass, Black, Ainsworth, Miller and Hahn, cosponsored by Senators S. Fitzgerald, Roessler, Hansen, Wirch, Schultz and Carpenter. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

AN ACT *to amend* 45.43 (5) (c) and 45.43 (5) (e); and *to create* 45.43 (5) (f) of the

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statutes; **relating to:** the duties of county veterans' service officers.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, county veterans' service officers provide information and assistance to persons who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The county veterans' service officer helps the veteran and his or her dependents obtain the benefits to which they are entitled and assists them with any complaint or problem related to the service in the U.S. armed forces.

This bill requires the county veterans' service officer to provide the same type of services and assistance to members of the national guard and members of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces and to their dependents.

For further information see the *state and local* 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:

- **SECTION 1.** 45.43 (5) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:
- 4 45.43 **(5)** (c) Cooperate with federal and state agencies which serve or grant
- 5 aids or benefits to former military personnel, members of the national guard, and
- 6 <u>members of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces,</u> and their dependents.

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1	<b>SECTION 2.</b> 45.43 (5) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:
2	45.43 (5) (e) Perform the duties prescribed by law, including those duties under
3	pars. (a) to (d) and (f), separately and distinctly from any other county department.
4	<b>SECTION 3.</b> 45.43 (5) (f) of the statutes is created to read:
5	45.43 (5) (f) Advise persons living in the service officer's county who are
6	members of the national guard or who are in a reserve unit of the U.S. armed services
7	and the dependents of those persons regarding any benefits to which they may be
8	entitled or any complaint or problem arising out of a person's membership in the
9	national guard or reserve unit and render to them and their dependents all possible
10	assistance.

(END)