
AN ACT to renumber and amend 45.385; and to create 20.485 (1) (q), 25.17 (1) (xq), 25.38 and 45.385 (2) of the statutes; relating to: veterans facilities and programs in northwestern Wisconsin.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (department) is authorized to operate residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities in southeastern Wisconsin, on land formerly occupied by the southern center for the developmentally disabled located in Union Grove. The department has the authority to employ necessary personnel and to purchase or condemn lands necessary to construct and operate these facilities. Currently, the department does operate three community-based residential facilities on the property.

This bill gives the department similar authority to develop, construct or renovate, and operate residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities in northwestern Wisconsin, on land located at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls. The bill also creates a trust fund to pay for the development of these facilities, funded from the net proceeds of the sale of surplus land at the northern center.

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

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<th>2003-04</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.485 Veterans affairs, department of</td>
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<td>(1) Homes and facilities for veterans</td>
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<td>(q) Northwestern facilities</td>
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SECTION 2. 20.485 (1) (q) of the statutes is created to read:

20.485 (1) (q) Northwestern facilities. From the veterans northwestern
facilities trust fund, the amounts in the schedule for the development and provision
of services, facilities, and programs for veterans at the Northern Wisconsin Center
for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls.

SECTION 3. 25.17 (1) (xq) of the statutes is created to read:

25.17 (1) (xq) Veterans northwestern facilities trust fund (s. 25.38)

SECTION 4. 25.38 of the statutes is created to read:

25.38 Veterans northwestern facilities trust fund. There is created a
separate nonlapsible trust fund designated as the veterans northwestern facilities
trust fund. The fund shall consist of the net proceeds of the sale of surplus land at
the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls.

SECTION 5. 45.385 of the statutes is renumbered 45.385 (1) and amended to
read:

45.385 (1) Veterans southeastern facilities. Subject to authorization under
ss. 13.48 (10) and 20.924 (1), the department may construct or renovate and operate
residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities in southeastern Wisconsin,
including a community-based residential facility, to be known as the Southern
Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center. The department may employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management of the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center. The department may acquire by gift, purchase, or condemnation lands necessary for the purposes of the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center. Title to any properties acquired under this section shall be taken in the name of this state. Every deed of conveyance shall be immediately recorded in the office of the proper register of deeds and filed with the secretary of state.

SECTION 6. 45.385 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

45.385 (2) VETERANS NORTHWESTERN FACILITIES. Subject to authorization under ss. 13.48 (10) and 20.924 (1), the department may develop, construct or renovate, and operate residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities and programs for veterans in northwestern Wisconsin, on the property of the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls. The programs and facilities may include an assisted living facility, a skilled nursing facility, a medical clinic, an adult day health care center, an activities center, and a veterans’ assistance program. The department may employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management of these facilities and programs.