



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2003 Assembly Bill 409	Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
<i>Memo published:</i> September 19, 2003	
<i>Contact:</i> Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2680)	

This memorandum describes Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 2003 Assembly Bill 409, which relates to county veterans' service officers (CVSOs).

Background

Section 45.43 (5), Stats., sets forth a number of duties of CVSOs. One such duty is to advise persons living in the CVSO's county who served in the U.S. armed forces regarding any benefits to which they may be entitled or regarding any complaint or problem arising out of such service and to provide them and their dependents with all possible assistance.

As originally drafted, Assembly Bill 409 would require CVSOs to provide the same type of services and assistance to members of the national guard and reserve units of the U.S. armed forces and their dependents.

With the ongoing activation and deployment of national guard and reserve units in the state, CVSOs are receiving more calls regarding military points of contact for activated and deployed units and general deployment information, as well as potential benefits for which guard and reserves members may be or may become eligible.

These requests for information directed to CVSOs have raised concerns that: (1) CVSOs may not have the information they need to respond to questions concerning military points of contact and deployments; and (2) CVSOs should not be *required* to perform duties in addition to serving veterans, but rather should be *authorized* to provide information and assistance to guard and reserves members and their families as time and resources permit.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 does the following:

1. Directs the adjutant general to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) with information on all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the national guard.
2. Directs the DVA to provide CVSOs with the information the department receives from the adjutant general concerning national guard members, as well as with information on points of contact and general deployment information for reserve units of the U.S. armed forces.
3. Permits CVSOs to:
 - a. Inform members of the national guard or reserves or their dependents living in the CVSO's county regarding potential benefits to which the members may be or may become entitled and all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members;
 - b. Render all possible assistance to those members and their dependents; and
 - c. Cooperate with federal and state agencies which serve or grant aids or benefits to members and their dependents.

Legislative History

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Terry Musser on September 16, 2003. In executive session on September 17, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs adopted the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, also on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

PS:tlu



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2003 Wisconsin Act 163 [2003 Assembly Bill 409]	Duties of County Veterans Service Officers
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 163 requires the adjutant general (head of the Department of Military Affairs) to provide to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) information on all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the national guard. The DVA, in turn, must provide this information to county veterans service officers (CVSOs). In addition, Act 163 permits DVA to provide CVSOs with information on military points of contact and general deployment information for reserve units.

Act 163 also authorizes CVSOs to: (1) inform guard and reserves members or their dependents living in the CVSO's county regarding potential benefits to which the members may be entitled and all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the guard and reserves; and (2) cooperate with federal and state agencies which serve or grant aids or benefits to members and their dependents.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on March 31, 2004.

Prepared by: Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney

March 24, 2004

PS:wu

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information,
consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

10/29/03

§ AB 409

Gen. Renson

OMA

OVA - has info on benefits

OMA - has info on ~~the~~ deployments for guards

Army Reservists have own information

* need one clarifying amendment

page 2, line 8 - post period after "armed forces"

10/29/03

AB 409

Rep. Musser

intention is to provide information to families on activations/deployments of

guard members

permits CVSO's to provide information on deployments/benefits

Sen. Fitzgerald

not indicative of negligence by CVSO's but formalizes relationship



VETERANS AFFAIRS

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WDVA Legislative Position Paper:

2003 A.B. 409 – CVSO Provision of Reserve/Guard Activation/Deployment Information

October 22, 2003

Description of the Bill

2003 A.B. 409 (Rep. Musser)

The initial bill imposed additional duties upon County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) to serve members of the national guard and military reserves.

The substitute amendment amends the CVSO activity to be permissive. Under the substitute amendment, WDVA and WDVA would be mandated to perform certain activities. WDVA is directed to provide information to WDVA on all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for guard members. The information includes "all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the national guard and reserve units of the U.S. armed forces." In turn, WDVA is directed to provide that information to CVSOs. The bill requires WDVA and WDVA to develop a mechanism to share the information, and for WDVA to coordinate the flow of that information to the CVSOs. No funding or positions are provided for this activity by the bill. Under the substitute amendment, WDVA does not have any information search responsibility, and would simply act as a repository of, and conduit for the information provided to WDVA by WDVA.

WDVA Position

WDVA Position: SUPPORT.

The substitute amendment to this bill provides an additional mechanism for providing information related to activation and deployment for members of the military reserves and national guard. The information to be provided is already issued by WDVA in electronic format. WDVA currently provides a variety of information and resources electronically to CVSOs through WDVA's regional coordinators. While the bill is unfunded, the fiscal impact of electronically distributing occasional additional documents, as called for by the substitute amendment, would be negligible. However, the inclusion of CVSOs as a source of reserve/guard activation and deployment information would, upon a request for such information by an affected reserve/guard member or family member, afford CVSOs an excellent opportunity to provide information regarding federal and state veterans' benefits to potentially eligible individuals.

WDVA has long supported measures such as this bill that, in a systematic manner, offer a high probability of improving outreach and assistance to veterans and their dependents and survivors by proactively providing information, services, benefits counseling, and application assistance to those who may be eligible to receive federal and/or state veterans' benefits.

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as of Monday, November 10, 2003

2003-2004 legislative session

Legislative bills and resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

- Text, Sponsors and Analysis
- Status and Fiscal Estimate
- Lobbying Effort on this item

Assembly Bill 409

the duties of county veterans' service officers

Organization		These organizations have reported lobbying on this proposal:	Place pointer on icon to display comment click icon to display prior comments		
Profile	Interests		Date Notified	Position	Comm
		Wisconsin Professional Police Association	6/25/2003		

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House

- Assembly
- Senate

Proposal Type

- Bill
- Joint Resolution
- Resolution

Proposal Number

409 (enter proposal number)

Legislative Session

2003 Regular Session

Go

Vote Record
Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform

Date: 10/29/03

Moved by: Fitzgerald

Seconded by: Zien

AB 409

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____

SJR _____

Appointment _____

AR _____

SR _____

Other _____

A/S Amdt (1) LRB

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

Committee Member

Senator Ronald Brown, Chair

Aye

No

Absent

Not Voting

Senator David Zien

Senator Scott Fitzgerald

Senator Robert Wirch

Senator Roger Breske

Totals:

5

0

0

0

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record
Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military
Affairs and Government Reform

Date: 10/29/03

Moved by: Zien

Seconded by: Fitzgerald/Wirch

AB 409 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Ronald Brown, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Zien	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Scott Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Roger Breske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Motion Carried Motion Failed