



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2003 Senate Bill 205

**Senate
Amendment 1**

Memo published: November 6, 2003

Contact: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2982)

Senate Bill 205 creates a trust fund designated as the Veterans Northwestern Facilities Trust Fund. The fund consists of the net proceeds of the sale of surplus land at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls. Under the bill, funds could be used for the development and provision of services, facilities, and programs for veterans at Northern Wisconsin Center. The Department of Veterans Affairs would be given the authority to develop, construct or renovate, and operate residential, treatment, and nursing facilities and programs for veterans in Northwestern Wisconsin on the property of Northern Wisconsin Center. These 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 bill authorizes the department to employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management of these facilities and programs.

Senate Amendment 1 deletes references in the bill to the Veterans Northwestern Facilities Trust Fund and instead modifies language pertaining to an existing appropriation that was created by 2003 Wisconsin Act 33 (the 2003-05 Biennial Budget Act). Act 33 created a statute that authorized the Joint Committee on Finance to approve expenditure of moneys received by the state from the sale of property at Northern Wisconsin Center only to support any state activity conducted at the Center. Senate Amendment 1 deletes references to the trust fund and instead amends the statute created by Act 33 to allow expenditure of the moneys received from the sale of property at Northern Wisconsin Center to support any state activity “, including by the Department of Veterans Affairs”.

Legislative History

On September 18, 2003, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform introduced and recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1, and recommended passage of the bill as amended, by votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

On October 23, 2003, the Senate adopted Senate Amendment 1, and passed the bill as amended, both by voice votes.

RNS:rv:wu;ksm



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2003 Wisconsin Act 102 [2003 Senate Bill 205]	Veterans' Northwestern Facilities
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 102 authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to use specified funds for programs and facilities for veterans in Northwestern Wisconsin.

The Act allows DVA to develop, construct or renovate, and operate residential, treatment, and nursing facilities and programs for veterans in Northwestern Wisconsin on the property of Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled. These 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 Act authorizes DVA to employ any personnel that are necessary for the proper management of these facilities and programs.

The Act modifies language pertaining to an appropriation that was created by 2003 Wisconsin Act 33 (the 2003-05 Biennial Budget Act). Act 33 created a statute that authorized the Joint Committee on Finance to approve expenditure of moneys received by the state from the sale of property at Northern Wisconsin Center only to support any state activity conducted at the Center. The Act amends the statute to allow expenditure of the moneys received from the sale of property at Northern Wisconsin Center to support any state activity “, including by the department of veterans affairs”.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on December 30, 2003.

Prepared by: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney

December 16, 2003

RNS:tlu:ksm;wu

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



Jim Doyle, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>

E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us

FAX: (608) 267-0403

TESTIMONY
OF
JOHN A. SCOCOS, DEPUTY SECRETARY
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
VA CARES COMMISSION HEARING
ON
THE DRAFT NATIONAL CARES PLAN
AND
VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK (VISN) 23
AT THE
MINNEAPOLIS VA MEDICAL CENTER
SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

**Testimony, John A. Scocos, Deputy Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CARES process and how it will impact Wisconsin veterans. Fifteen northwestern Wisconsin counties are in the Minneapolis VA Medical Center's (VAMC) catchment area – veterans from those counties primarily look to VISN 23 VA facilities for health care services. Currently, facilities in VISN 23 that service Wisconsin veterans are the Minneapolis VAMC, the Chippewa Falls Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and the Twin Ports Satellite Clinic in Superior, Wisconsin.

In the CARES plan for VISN 23, there are three proposals we would like to comment on. The first is to add a CBOC in northwestern Wisconsin where distances to care are excessive. The site recommended is Rice Lake. However, the intent is to contract with a provider (or providers) to offer services to veterans in several communities in that area, such as Hayward. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) supports this plan of contracting for services in several communities wholeheartedly. Additional CBOC coverage will provide improved access for many more entitled veterans who live too far from a VA facility to realistically seek care from VA. Access, as we all know, is not just about capacity, but also about distance.

Second, the VISN 23 plan proposes the Minneapolis VAMC develop a contractual relationship with hospitals in the Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin area for provision of inpatient medical and inpatient surgical bed-days for those cases where access to Minneapolis is not feasible. While it is not clear under what circumstances such contracted services would be used, WDVA endorses this concept as it also will improve access.

Third, the plan proposes that VA facilities contract for a percentage of high volume/low cost/low complexity specialty procedures in the community – procedures such as colonoscopy and flexible sigmoidoscopy – where VA facilities lack sufficient staff to handle the demand. While the plan suggests this for the Minnesota market, similar services should be sought in western Wisconsin from area physicians who would be

**Testimony, John A. Scocos, Deputy Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs**

willing to perform such procedures. While the numbers would likely be relatively small, if veterans in the metropolitan Minneapolis market are having difficulty getting such procedures done, the problem also exists in rural northwestern Wisconsin. WDVA would endorse such a modification to the plan.

Overall, the proposed VISN 23 planning initiatives address the most serious shortcomings that exist for veterans in western Wisconsin if these suggested plans become reality.

There is an important area not addressed in the VISN 23 planning model that we believe needs to be mentioned. This is long-term care. We believe the CARES Commission should address this issue in its final report. The potential exists for continued expansion of the federal/state partnership programs - the state home construction grant and the state home per diem. There is no veterans home in the Wisconsin counties in the Minnesota Market. The long-term care needs for veterans in the northwest corner of our state are not being adequately met. Currently all Wisconsin long-term care links with USDVA are through VISN 12. Expansion of the state home program to northwest Wisconsin could represent a win-win situation for both partners – WDVA and VISN 23. Wisconsin currently operates a health care facility in Chippewa Falls, the Northern Wisconsin Center of the Developmentally Disabled (NWC), which is currently being downsized. With this downsizing effort, state infrastructure, both buildings and land, will become available. We are developing a veterans home in southeastern Wisconsin, also an underserved area, where buildings and land on the Southern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled came available as they downsized. A similar initiative could occur at NWC. This campus is also an ideal site for an expanded CBOC operation in Chippewa Falls. We believe that significant savings could be realized through a collaborative initiative, one that could provide nursing home care services, assisted living, transitional housing for homeless veterans, primary care and adult day health care. We recommend this course of action be considered.

**Testimony, John A. Scocos, Deputy Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs**

That concludes my remarks. Thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the proposed VISN 23 plan for the Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin market.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

Thursday, December 11, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sen. Dave Zien, (608) 266-5300

VETERANS' CAMPUS AT NORTHERN CENTER TO BE SIGNED INTO LAW

CHIPPEWA FALLS – A proposal to create a Veterans' Campus at the Northern Center for the Developmentally Disabled, authored by Sen. Dave Zien (R-Wheaton), will be signed into law today by Governor Jim Doyle (D-Madison) at a ceremony in Wausau.

Zien said the proposal received unanimous, bi-partisan approval in the Legislature, including strong support from Chippewa Valley area legislators Sen. Ron Brown (R-Eau Claire), Rep. Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford), Rep. Jeff Wood (R-Chippewa Falls) and Rep. Larry Balow (D-Eau Claire), and he is delighted that the Governor is continuing in that fashion by signing it into law.

"Veterans who have fought to protect our freedom need and deserve to have services provided closer to home," said Zien. "A veterans' campus that covers the spectrum of health care services is needed in our area, and it makes perfect sense to use an existing facility and skilled workers to provide the care."

Suder agreed, saying the proposal will provide much needed jobs and care for veterans in the Chippewa Valley.

"Not only will this proposal use existing facilities in the Chippewa Valley to provide our patriots with enhanced care, it will also create 165 jobs for our area," Suder said. "I am pleased that the Governor joined our ongoing efforts to ensure that veterans in Northern Wisconsin receive the benefits they deserve."

Zien said while the current clinic in Chippewa Falls provides excellent health care services to veterans, a more comprehensive approach to veterans' services is needed to provide a broader spectrum of care for veterans.

"It's great that veterans in our area won't have to travel to Tomah or Minneapolis for health care services anymore," said Rep. Wood. "My sincere thanks go out to Sen. Dave Zien and other area legislators for their hard work on this bill, and to Governor Doyle for taking a second look at it and approving it."

(more)

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) said the new campus could provide nursing home services, assisted living, transitional housing for homeless veterans, primary care and adult day care.

DVA toured the Northern Center grounds and were impressed by the buildings and grounds, and the dedicated workforce at the Center. With the downsizing of the Northern Center, Zien said it made sense to use the existing resources and skilled workforce to fill a void for veterans. It will be modeled after a facility that is being developed in southeastern Wisconsin on the grounds of Southern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled.

Zien applauded DVA Secretary John Scocos, who toured the facility in April with Zien, for working to provide comprehensive services to veterans in Northwestern Wisconsin.

“Secretary Scocos played a key role in getting the proposal passed,” said Zien. “He is working to make sure all veterans in this state receive the services they need and deserve – we couldn’t have done this without his help and support.”

Zien said DVA will now work to secure federal funding for the campus.

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STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

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FAX: (608) 267-0403

Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

December 12, 2003

Senator Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol

Dear Senator Brown:

I would like to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 205 to authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin the initial steps that may result in the development of residential, treatment, and nursing care facilities for northwestern Wisconsin. The bill's signing in Wausau on December 11th represents an extraordinary effort of Republicans and Democrats coming together in unanimous support of our state's veterans.

Thank you for making this initiative possible.

Sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN A. SCOCOS
Secretary

Rec'd
12/16/03

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as of Tuesday, October 21, 2003

2003-2004 legislative session

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Senate Bill 205

veterans facilities and programs in northwestern Wisconsin.

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Monday, October 27, 2003 - 08:13

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE PHOTOS

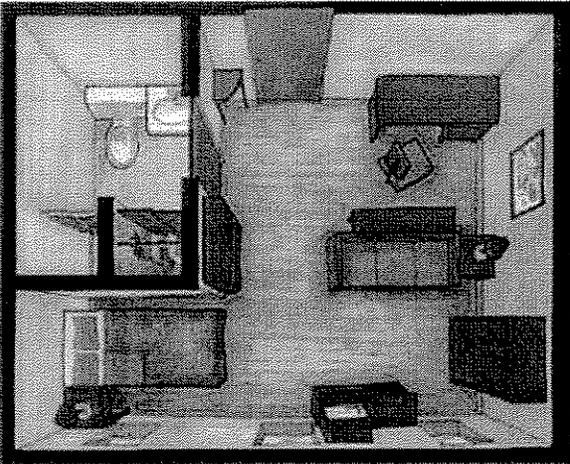
Union Grove Veterans Home



Fairchild Hall



Common Area



Typical Member Room



Dining Room

Staff and Members of the Union Grove Veterans Home



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Monday, October 27, 2003 - 08:16

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Skilled Nursing Care & A High-Quality Retirement Environment

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) operates the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and the recently opened Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. In addition to providing outstanding care for veterans and their spouses, both homes also offer numerous employment opportunities.

Wisconsin Veterans Home at King

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King (Waupaca County) is the state's largest nursing care facility, but it still retains the friendliness and convenience of a small, close-knit community.

The picturesque campus, located on Rainbow Lake near Waupaca, includes four licensed nursing care buildings, cottages for married couples able to care for themselves, chapels, bowling alley, post office, theater, museum and library. For images of the King Veterans Home, [click here](#).

Veterans who meet criteria for [military service](#) and [state residency](#) may be admitted if they apply income and resources to the cost of their care as required by Medicaid. Members receive complete medical and nursing care as well as social services and recreational activities. Many members participate in work therapy programs, which allow them to earn extra money while providing valuable services to their fellow members.

In addition, more than 425 volunteers contribute approximately 70,000 total hours of service annually through visits to members and support activities that enrich community life.

For more information about the services and activities at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, [click here](#). For more information about **admission** to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, [click here](#).

Wisconsin Veterans Home at King
N2665 County Road QQ
King, WI 54946-0600

Phone: (715) 258-5586

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove is a community-based residential facility for veterans and their spouses that offers a high-quality of life in a healthy, safe and enriching environment at an affordable price. For images of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, [click here](#).

Conveniently located close to family and friends, the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove opened in 2001 on the campus of the Southern Wisconsin Center. The Home with its staff of professional health-care providers offers an array of services for veterans and their spouses including:

- Recreation and activities.
- Safe and secure housing.
- Nutritious meals.
- Laundry and housekeeping.
- Administration of medications.
- Help with personal hygiene.

Veterans also have ample opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow veterans at the Home. In conjunction with the nearby [Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#), residents of the veterans home may participate in numerous patriotic observances and other activities of the veterans' community.

Most veterans reside in comfortable single-bed rooms, each with their own private bathroom. Veterans and spouses reside in double-bed rooms with a private bathroom. To provide a home-like atmosphere, residents may use their own bed and other furniture. Private phone service and cable television are available. Meals are served restaurant style in a central dining room.

The Home has two newly remodeled buildings with a third under construction. Each building has a library, activities room, exercise room and several lounge areas that are modern, well-equipped and spacious. A family room with a kitchen is available for private celebrations.

As an added convenience, enrolled veterans can receive health-care services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic, next door to the Home. The VA clinic is affiliated with the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and provides primary care along with referrals to Zablocki when specialized care is required.

In addition to its third community-based residential facility scheduled to open in 2003, the Home plans to add a 120-bed skilled nursing care facility, adult-day health care and an activities center in 2005.

The cost of care

Veterans living in state veterans homes can access federal benefits that significantly reduce their cost of care. Compared with similar facilities in the private sector, veterans may pay 30% to 40% less per month for their care at the Home. The Home will work with veterans and spouses during the application process to find the best options for financing their living arrangements and cost of care.

To be admitted to the Home, veterans must meet criteria for military service and state residency.

To apply for **admission** to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove contact:

Mary Winters
WVH-Union Grove
21425 C Spring St.
Union Grove, WI 53182
Phone: (262) 878-5668/5785
E-mail: Mary.Winters-Deubel@dva.state.wi.us

Steve Stead
WVH-Union Grove Deputy Commandant
21425 C Spring St.
Union Grove, WI 53182
Phone: (262) 878-5668
E-mail: steve.stead@dva.state.wi.us

Your County Veterans Service Office also can answer eligibility questions and help with the application process for state veterans homes.

Employment opportunities

Employment opportunities for both state veterans homes are listed on the Wisconsin Current Employment Opportunities Web site maintained by the state's Department of Employment Relations. [Click here](#) to access this Web site.

In addition, both state veterans homes are recruiting continually for **Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)**, **Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)**, and **Registered Nurses (Nurse Clinicians)** positions.

As state employees, the staff at the veterans homes receive an array of significant fringe benefits along with competitive salaries. [Click here](#) for information about state employees' benefits.

For more information about employment at the state veterans homes, contact: [Elaine Hansen](#) for employment opportunities at King and [Steve Stead](#), for opportunities at Union Grove.

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Affairs

30 W. Mifflin St.

PO Box 7843

Madison, WI 53707-7843

(608) 266-1311

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Raymond G. Boland
Secretary



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Jim Doyle, Governor
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Attention Newsroom—News Release

September 3, 2003
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

WDVA praises proposal to expand veterans' healthcare in northwestern Wisconsin *Calls for creation of a northern Wisconsin veterans center*

(MADISON) -- Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Deputy Secretary John A. Scocos presented testimony today before a federal Veterans Affairs (VA) commission, regarding the impact of a draft plan on Wisconsin veterans' health care.

Scocos spoke at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center before a VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission hearing on the Draft National CARES Plan and Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23. Scocos testified about veterans' health care in northwestern Wisconsin and sought the support of the commission for the proposed creation of a Northern Wisconsin Veterans Center near Chippewa Falls. Fifteen northwestern Wisconsin counties are in VISN 23.

Scocos praised the commission's proposal to add an additional VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located at Rice Lake to expand health care services to more veterans in northwestern Wisconsin. Scocos said that the additional coverage would provide improved access for veterans who live too far from a VA facility to seek the care from the VA that they are entitled to. Currently, the VA operates two clinics in northwestern Wisconsin, one in Superior, and another in Chippewa Falls.

Scocos also endorsed the VISN 23 plan to authorize the Minneapolis VA Medical Center to develop a contractual relationship with hospitals in the Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin area for provision of inpatient medical and inpatient surgical beds when access to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is not possible.

Scocos stated that the proposal for VA facilities to contract for a percentage of procedures where its facilities lack sufficient staff to handle demand should also be sought in northwestern Wisconsin from area physicians willing to perform such procedures as colonoscopy and flexible sigmoidoscopy. The WDVA would endorse such a modification to the VA plan, he said.

(more)

Add one

Scocos praised the Commission for the planned initiatives that address "the most serious shortcomings that exist for veterans in western Wisconsin."

However, Scocos identified a need for nursing home and long-term care for veterans in northwestern Wisconsin. "Expansion of the state home program to northwest Wisconsin could represent a win-win situation for both partners -- WDVA and VISN 23," said Scocos. "Wisconsin currently operates a health care facility in Chippewa Falls, the Northern Wisconsin Center of the Developmentally Disabled (NWC), which is currently being downsized. With this downsizing effort, state infrastructure, both buildings and land, will become available." Legislation authored by State Senators Dave Zien (R-Chippewa Falls) and Ron Brown (R-Eau Claire) that would create a northern Wisconsin Veterans Center is currently pending in the State Legislature. WDVA currently operates a similar center at Union Grove, in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Scocos said, "We are developing a veterans home in southeastern Wisconsin, and a similar initiative could occur at NWC."

In the concluding remarks of his testimony, Scocos added, "We believe that significant savings could be realized through a collaborative initiative, one that could provide nursing home care services, assisted living, transitional housing for homeless veterans, primary care, and adult day health care."

September 12, 2003
For Immediate Release
Contact: Representative Jeff Wood
Phone: (715) 726-9226

Dane County Judge Overrules Governor Doyle's Veto

(Madison) "In a breathtaking victory for developmentally disabled residents and their parents, a state court issued an injunction against the Doyle Administration which tried to strip away the rights of their disabled children and declare that state bureaucrats would have the final say where developmentally disabled residents were placed," said State Representative Jeff Wood (R-Chippewa Falls).

The court ruled in favor of the plaintiff who claimed that Doyle's actions were in violation of federal Medicaid law and state law Chapters 51 and 55. Although, parents of 127 out of 147 developmentally disabled residents at Northern Center were opposed to transfers into community centers, Governor Doyle's proposed budget would have eliminated any parental or county oversight in those decisions. In a bi-partisan compromise which passed 15-1 in the Committee of Joint Finance during the budget process, those rights were restored.

"The court ruling today is a victory for residents and their parents because it forces the Doyle Administration to comply with state and federal law and recognizes that parents of the developmentally disabled residents are the best advocates for their children, not the Doyle Administration," Wood said.

This is also a victory for the employees of the Northern Center and should extend the life of the Center until the VA medical facility is ready to open its doors, Wood indicated.

Wood said "It's too bad that the Doyle Administration has so little regard for disabled Americans and their guardians. I am thankful that a state court is forcing Governor Doyle to comply with state and federal laws."

October 23, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sen. Dave Zien, (608) 266-7511

Senate Approves Vets' Campus at Northern Center

MADISON – A veterans' campus on the Northern Wisconsin Center (NWC) grounds in Chippewa Falls won approval today in the Wisconsin State Senate.

Sen. Dave Zien (R-Wheaton) is the author of the legislation that would use a portion of the NWC building and grounds to house a new veterans' health care center. Zien said this is a major victory for veterans, for Chippewa Valley residents, and for the local economy.

"This is a great day for veterans and for citizens in the Chippewa Valley," said Zien. "I am delighted with the show of support in the Senate for veterans. Veterans will get services they need and deserve, and good jobs will be created to give a boost to the economy."

The campus will be similar to a veterans' facility that is connected to the Southern Center for the Developmentally Disabled. It will provide a health clinic, adult day care, assisted living, a skilled nursing facility, and an activities' center.

At Zien's request, officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) toured the grounds in April and were impressed by the local workforce and by the building and grounds at NWC.

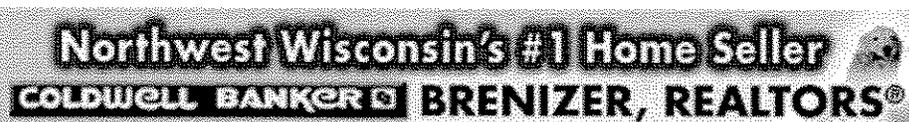
Sen. Ron Brown (R-Eau Claire), a co-sponsor of the proposal, said there continues to be a need for more services for veterans, especially in the northern part of the state. He said a homeless program could be in place in 18 months, with a skilled nursing facility and other services coming on-line in the following years.

"Today's vote was a great step forward for the Chippewa Valley and all of northern Wisconsin," Brown said. "The needs of veterans are the same all over the state, so we need to make sure assistance is available regardless of geography."

DVA estimates that 165 jobs will be created when the veterans' campus is fully operational. The facility will be funded in part by the sale of a portion of the land at NWC. It will also provide jobs to some NWC workers who will be displaced due to the Governor's downsizing of the NWC.

Rep. Scott Suder is the Assembly co-sponsor of the legislation. The proposal now moves to the Assembly for approval before being sent to the Governor's desk to be signed.

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9/23/2003 11:54:49 AM

Bill targets Northern Center for veterans

Tom Giffey
Leader-Telegram Staff

A plan to turn part of the Northern Center in Chippewa Falls into a veterans campus will sail through the Legislature this fall, lawmakers predict.

Rep. Scott Suder, R-Abbotsford, said the bill would help save about 165 jobs at the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled, which is being downsized, as well as provide services for aging veterans.

Suder, co-author of the state Assembly version of the bill, said many veterans from the region have to travel long distances to get the benefits they've earned.

"I think they would seek out the services more and get better care if it was closer to home," Suder said.

Under the bill, part of the mostly vacant Northern Center would be turned into a campus offering veterans a clinic, adult day care, an activity center and assisted living and nursing home facilities.

The cost of the proposal is uncertain. However, most of the money would come from the federal government, and the state's share could be paid for with the sale of some of the center's land, supporters say.

Sen. Dave Zien, R-Eau Claire, said he hears from irate veterans who face long waiting lists at the small Veterans Administration clinic in Chippewa

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AROUND TOWN: An Eau Claire resident who was born prematurely and not expected to see his first birthday is celebrating his 18th birthday.

FOOD: A cookbook author will demonstrate Indian cooking Saturday at the L.E. Phillips Memorial library.

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ABOUT US

Falls. Others must travel to Tomah or Fort Snelling, Minn., for care, said Zien, co-author of the Senate bill.

Last week, the Senate veterans committee, led by Sen. Ron Brown, R-Eau Claire, passed the bill. Suder said he hopes the full Senate passes it soon and Assembly leaders bring it directly to the floor during the fall session, which began today. He said he hopes the bill is ready for Gov. Jim Doyle's signature by mid-November.

Suder said members of both parties and the state Department of Veterans Affairs support the bill, and Zien is confident Doyle will sign it.

If the bill becomes law, it will take at least 18 months for the homeless center to open, Brown said. Other services would be added gradually, and the project wouldn't be finished for four or five years.

Giffey can be reached at 833-9205, (800) 236-7077 or tom.giffey@ecpc.com.

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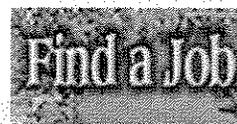
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TwinCities.com

Posted on Mon, Oct. 27, 2003

PIONEER PRESS**WISCONSIN: Senate approves veterans center**

Associated Press

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. — Western Wisconsin veterans could get medical care closer to home under a proposal to convert a center for the developmentally disabled into a veterans campus.

The proposal, which was approved by the state Senate last week, would provide a health clinic, adult day care, assisted living, skilled nursing facility and an activities center for veterans.

Sen. Ron Brown, R-Eau Claire and chairman of the Senate Veterans Committee, said the proposed campus could open in 18 months at the Northern Wisconsin Center.

"This is exciting for veterans in our part of the state. Now they have to go to Waupaca, Union Grove or Tomah for care," Brown said. "I'm a veteran myself. I'd prefer to stay close to home if something happens."

The proposed campus also would provide jobs for workers of the Northern Wisconsin Center who were displaced by the downsizing of the facility for the developmentally disabled, said Sen. Dave Zien, R-Eau Claire, author of the legislation.

The measure still needs approval from the Assembly and Gov. Jim Doyle to become law.

A future sale of some of the center's land would finance the facility, which has received full commitment from the Bureau of Veterans Affairs, Zien said.

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Wisconsin State Senator

Ron Brown

District 31

Potential Use of Revenue from Land Sale at Northern Wisconsin Center

- The 2003-05 biennial budget bill, as approved by the Legislature, directed DHFS to sell all surplus land at Northern Center.
- The bill authorizes the Department to use NWC land sale revenue received for state activities on the NWC campus. The use of the revenue is subject to approval by the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC). The Department is required to submit a plan for the use of the revenue to JFC for its approval under s.13.101 (17).
- Attached is a list of the positions authorized by the Legislature that could be funded by NWC land sale revenue, if a plan was submitted by the Department and approved by JFC for this purpose.

from DHFS

Northern Wisconsin Center
Revenue Needed from Sale of Land

<u>Function</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>FY04 Funds</u>	<u>FY05 Funds</u>	<u>Biennial Total</u>
Community Capacity Teams	12.00	\$280,100	\$315,700	\$595,800
Dental Services Expansion - Subsidy	1.70		\$67,100	\$67,100
Quality Assurance Positions	2.00	\$40,800	\$54,200	\$95,000
Northern Industries Day Programming - Subsidy	17.50	\$141,500	\$282,700	\$424,200
	<u>33.20</u>	<u>\$462,400</u>	<u>\$719,700</u>	<u>\$1,182,100</u>