

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 21.19 (15) and 45.03 (21) of the statutes; **relating to:** assistance
2 for veterans affected by depleted uranium.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 21.19 (15) of the statutes is created to read:
4 21.19 (15) The adjutant general shall assist national guard members who may
5 have been exposed to depleted uranium in obtaining the best practice health
6 screening test from the federal department of veterans affairs to test for exposure to
7 depleted uranium using a bioassay procedure involving methods sufficiently
8 sensitive to detect depleted uranium at low levels.

9 **SECTION 2.** 45.03 (21) of the statutes is created to read:

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 2**

1 45.03 (21) DEPLETED URANIUM; ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS. The department shall
2 do all of the following for veterans who may have been affected by exposure to
3 depleted uranium while on active duty:

4 (a) Assist veterans who may have been exposed to depleted uranium to obtain
5 the best practice health screening test from the federal department of veterans
6 affairs to test for exposure to depleted uranium using a bioassay procedure involving
7 methods sufficiently sensitive to detect depleted uranium at low levels.

8 (b) With the assistance of the department of military affairs, provide
9 information to veterans upon their discharge from active duty regarding the health
10 and safety issues concerning depleted uranium exposure, including the types and
11 efficacy of tests to detect depleted uranium exposure, the treatments available for
12 veterans affected by exposure to depleted uranium, and the federal and state
13 benefits that are available for veterans exposed to depleted uranium.

14 (c) Provide information to departmental staff, interested veterans
15 organizations, health care providers, and county veterans service officers regarding
16 the effects of depleted uranium exposure, the detection programs that are available
17 to determine if a veteran has been exposed to depleted uranium, the federal
18 treatment programs that are available to veterans who may have been exposed to
19 depleted uranium, and the federal and state benefits that are available to veterans
20 who have been exposed to depleted uranium.

21 (d) Create information on the Internet about the health effects of depleted
22 uranium exposure, the detection programs that are available to determine if a
23 national guard member or veteran has been exposed to depleted uranium, the federal
24 treatment programs that are available to those who may have been exposed to

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1 depleted uranium, and the federal and state benefits that are available to those
2 national guard members or veterans who have been exposed to depleted uranium.

SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.

3
4 (1) DEPLETED URANIUM STUDY COMMITTEE. There is created a depleted uranium
5 study committee, which shall consist of one member appointed by the senate
6 majority leader, one member appointed by the senate minority leader, one member
7 appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one member appointed by the assembly
8 minority leader, one member appointed by the adjutant general, one member
9 appointed by the secretary of the department of veterans affairs, one member
10 appointed by the secretary of the department of health and family services, 2
11 members appointed by the committee who are veterans with knowledge of or
12 experience with exposure to hazardous materials, one county veterans service officer
13 appointed by the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin, and 2
14 members appointed by the committee who are physicians or scientists with
15 knowledge of or experience with exposure to hazardous materials. The committee
16 shall designate one of its members as the chairperson. The committee shall study
17 the health effects on veterans of the U.S. armed forces, including members of the
18 national guard activated into the U.S. armed forces, to exposure to depleted uranium
19 and other hazardous materials. The committee shall evaluate the current
20 information provided to national guard members and veterans regarding exposure
21 to depleted uranium and other hazardous materials, the tests and medical
22 treatments available for national guard members and veterans exposed to depleted
23 uranium and other hazardous materials, and the federal and state benefits available
24 to national guard members and veterans exposed to depleted uranium and other
25 hazardous materials. The departments of health and family services, military

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 3**

1 affairs, and veterans affairs shall assist the committee in fulfilling its
2 responsibilities under this subsection. On or before January 15, 2009, the committee
3 shall submit a report, with any recommended legislation, regarding the training,
4 medical treatment, and benefits available to national guard members and veterans
5 exposed to depleted uranium and other hazardous materials, to the governor and to
6 the legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees in the
7 manner provided under section 13.172 (3) of the statutes. The committee shall cease
8 to exist when the committee has submitted the report or on January 15, 2009,
9 whichever occurs sooner.

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(END)