



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 752

February 15, 2010 – Introduced by Representatives SINICKI, GOTTLIEB, HILGENBERG, HUBLER, PETERSEN, TOWNSEND, CLARK, HONADEL, ZIGMUNT, STONE, SHILLING, GUNDERSON, PASCH, LOTHIAN, SOLETSKI, NYGREN, FIELDS, ROTH, GRIGSBY, VAN ROY, A. WILLIAMS, A. OTT, RICHARDS, BIES, JORGENSEN, SPANBAUER, BERCEAU, BROOKS, HIXSON, KLEEFISCH, KAUFERT, MONTGOMERY and NASS, cosponsored by Senators LEHMAN, COWLES, LEIBHAM, KANAVAS, PLALE, KEDZIE, TAYLOR, SCHULTZ, OLSEN, GROTHMAN and DARLING. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 15.49; and *to create* 15.49 (2) and 15.49 (3) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** members of the Board of Veterans Affairs and granting
3 rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, seven members serve on the Board of Veterans Affairs (board) for staggered six-year terms. The bill divides the state into seven geographical areas, called districts, and requires that not more than one member of the board reside in each district. The bill requires organizations that are represented on the Council on Veterans Programs to assist the governor in finding appropriate nominees to the board and allows them to forward the names of possible nominees to the governor.

The bill requires the Department of Administration to review the population of veterans in each district every ten years and to adjust the counties contained in each district by rule if the population of veterans of any district deviates by more than 10 percent of an equal distribution among all districts, without splitting counties into more than one district or creating a district composed of counties that are not contiguous.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 15.49 of the statutes is renumbered 15.49 (1).

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1 **SECTION 2.** 15.49 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

2 15.49 **(2)** (a) Not more than one member of the board shall reside in each of the
3 following districts:

4 1. District number one, consisting of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett,
5 Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon,
6 Marinette, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, and Washburn counties.

7 2. District number 2, consisting of Buffalo, Clark, Crawford, Eau Claire, Grant,
8 Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Sauk, St. Croix,
9 Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood counties.

10 3. District number 3, consisting of Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Menominee,
11 Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties.

12 4. District number 4, consisting of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du
13 Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Portage, and Waushara counties.

14 5. District number 5, consisting of Calumet, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Sheboygan,
15 Washington, and Waukesha counties.

16 6. District number 6, consisting of Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette,
17 Racine, Rock, and Walworth counties.

18 7. District number 7, consisting of Milwaukee County.

19 (b) The organizations represented on the council on veterans programs shall
20 assist the governor in finding appropriate nominees for board membership. Any
21 organization represented on the council on veterans programs may forward names
22 of possible nominees to the governor.

23 **SECTION 3.** 15.49 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

24 15.49 **(3)** Every 10 years after the effective date of this subsection [LRB
25 inserts date], the department of administration shall review the population of

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1 veterans in each of the districts in sub. (2). Notwithstanding sub. (2), if the
2 department of administration's decennial review determines that the population of
3 veterans of any district deviates by more than 10 percent of an equal distribution
4 among all districts, the department of administration shall promulgate a rule that
5 adjusts the counties contained in each district to create districts with as equal a
6 veterans population as possible without splitting counties into more than one district
7 or creating a district composed of counties that are not contiguous.

SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.

8
9 (1) Notwithstanding section 15.49 (2) of the statutes, as created by this act, any
10 person serving as a member of the board of veterans affairs on the effective date of
11 this subsection who is already confirmed by the senate may continue to hold office
12 and exercise the powers and duties of that office until his or her successor is
13 appointed and qualified.

SECTION 4. Effective date.

14
15 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the first month beginning after
16 publication.

17 (END)