



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 96

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

Memo published: May 17, 2011

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This Memo describes Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 2011 Assembly Bill 96, relating to the composition of the Board of Veterans Affairs, the appointment of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and direction and supervision of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

Under *current law*, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is appointed by the Board of Veterans Affairs to serve at the pleasure of the board. The Board of Veterans Affairs is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms. All of the members must be veterans, and at least two of the members must be Vietnam War veterans. Under current law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs promulgates, with the approval of the board, the rules for administering DVA and for performing DVA's duties.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 requires selection of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through nomination by the Governor and confirmation by a majority of the state Senate. Prior to appointment, the Governor must personally consult with the presiding officer of at least six Wisconsin veterans organizations. Board of Veterans Affairs membership is expanded to nine members appointed to staggered four-year terms, with a requirement that at least one member of the board is a resident of each congressional district in the state. The secretary and all board members must be veterans, with no requirement that any represent a particular war or conflict.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 vests authority to promulgate rules in the secretary, and requires the secretary to provide a copy of any proposed rule to the Board of Veterans Affairs. The board may make written comments to the rule, which are required to be included in the rule analysis submitted by DVA under s. 227.14 (2), Stats.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs recommended adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 1, and passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 4.

CB:ksm