AN ACT to repeal 20.485 (2) (c); and to create 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes; relating to: pilot program to provide outreach, support, and mental health and substance abuse services for veterans and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer a pilot program to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to certain individuals who are serving or who have served in the armed forces and who have a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder. Under the bill, DVA must provide quarterly reports to the governor and the Joint Committee on Finance that include the number of individuals served by the program, the services provided to individuals, and the types of insurance held by individuals who receive services under the program.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:
20.485 Veterans affairs, department of

(2) LOANS AND AIDS TO VETERANS

(c) Veterans outreach and recovery

SECTION 2. 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

20.485 (2) (c) Veterans outreach and recovery program. Biennially, the amounts in the schedule to provide outreach, mental health services, and support as specified in 2017 Wisconsin Act .... (this act), section 4 (1).

SECTION 3. 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act .... (this act), is repealed.


(1) VETERANS OUTREACH AND RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) To be funded from the appropriation under section 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, the department of veterans affairs shall administer a pilot program, ending on June 30, 2019, to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to individuals who may have a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder, and who meet one of the following conditions:

1. Are serving in the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces.

2. Served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, or the national guard of any state and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
(b) The eligibility requirements under section 45.02 of the statutes do not apply
to an individual receiving services under paragraph (a).

(c) The department of veterans affairs may provide payments to facilitate the
provision of services under paragraph (a).

(d) Beginning on June 30, 2018, and quarterly thereafter, the department of
veterans affairs shall submit a report to the governor and the joint committee on
finance that includes all of the following:

1. The number of veterans served and the services provided to veterans under
paragraph (a).

2. The types of insurance a veteran has at the time the veteran receives a
service under paragraph (a).

(2) REPORTING EXPENSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. In the report under subsection
(1) (d) that is due on December 30, 2018, the department of veterans affairs shall
include a summary of the administrative expenses for the program and the
department’s recommendations for whether to continue or expand the pilot program
under subsection (1).

(3) POSITION AUTHORITY. The authorized FTE positions for the department of
veterans affairs are increased by 8.0 GPR FTE project positions, to be funded from
the appropriation under section 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes, for the purpose of
administering the program to provide outreach, treatment, and support under
subsection (1), for the period beginning on the effective date of this subsection and
ending on June 30, 2019.

SECTION 5. Effective dates. This act takes effect on the day after publication,
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(1) The repeal of section 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes takes effect on July 1, 2019.

(END)