AN ACT to create 20.485 (2) (c), 20.485 (2) (f), 45.43 (3) and 45.455 of the statutes;
relating to: a program to provide outreach, support, and mental health and
substance abuse services for veterans, funds for homeless veterans, and
making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer a 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.

The bill also provides that if DVA receives a notice that it will not receive funds
sufficient to provide services for homeless veterans under its current veterans
assistance program, DVA is required to submit a request to the Joint Committee on
Finance, within 90 days of receiving the notice of insufficient funds, for moneys to
supplement the loss of federal funds.
SENATE BILL 853

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:

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<td>Veterans outreach and recovery</td>
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<td>program</td>
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<td>General fund supplement to veterans assistance program</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

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 s. 45.455.

SECTION 3. 20.485 (2) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

20.485 (2) (f) General fund supplement to veterans assistance program. Biennially, subject to s. 45.43 (3), the amounts in the schedule for the veterans assistance program under s. 45.43 (1).

SECTION 4. 45.43 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

45.43 (3) If the department receives a notification that the department will receive an amount of federal funds that is insufficient to continue providing all
services for homeless veterans under this section, the department shall submit a
request to the joint committee on finance for supplemental funds sufficient to replace
the federal funds from the general fund to be credited to the appropriation account
under s. 20.485 (2) (f) to provide payments under this section. The department shall
submit the request to the joint committee on finance within 90 days of receiving
notification of the insufficient amount of federal funds. The joint committee on
finance may, from the appropriation under s. 20.865 (4) (a), supplement the
appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (f) in an amount equal to the amount of
supplemental funds stated in the request. If the cochairpersons of the committee do
not notify the department within 14 working days after the date of the department’s
request that the committee has scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the
request for a supplement, the supplement to the appropriation is approved. If,
within 14 working days after the date of the department’s notification, the
cochairpersons of the committee notify the department that the committee has
scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed supplement, the
supplement may occur only upon approval of the committee.

Section 5. 45.455 of the statutes is created to read:

45.455 Veterans outreach and recovery program. (1) To be funded from
the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (c), the department shall administer a program
to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to individuals who have a
mental health condition or substance abuse disorder, and who meet one of the
following conditions:

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

(2) The eligibility requirements under s. 45.02 do not apply to an individual receiving services under sub. (1).

(3) The department may provide payments to facilitate the provision of services under sub. (1).

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

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

(b) The types of insurance a veteran has at the time the veteran receives a service under sub. (1).


(1) REPORTING EXPENSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. In the report under section 45.455 (4) of the statutes 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 program under section 45.455 of the statutes.

(2) POSITION AUTHORITY. The authorized FTE positions for the department of veterans affairs are increased by 8.0 GPR FTE 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, mental health services, and support under section 45.455 of the statutes.