2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 131

March 25, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives KURTZ, FELZKOWSKI, MURPHY, SORTWELL, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, THIESENFELT, TUSLER, WICHGERS, ZIMMERMAN and VANDERMEER, cosponsored by Senator JACQUE. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

AN ACT to repeal and recreate 20.485 (2) (c); to create 45.48 of the statutes; and to affect 2017 Wisconsin Act 295, section 3; relating to: the veterans outreach and recovery program and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires DVA 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, who reside in Wisconsin, and who may have a mental health condition or substance use disorder. The bill provides $1,296,400 in each year of the 2019-21 fiscal biennium for this purpose.

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

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SECTION 2. 20.485 (2) (c) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

20.485 (2) (c) Veterans outreach and recovery program. Biennially, from the general fund, the amounts in the schedule to provide outreach, mental health services, and support under s. 45.48.

SECTION 3. 45.48 of the statutes is created to read:

45.48 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 reside in this state, who may have a mental health condition or substance use 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).

**SECTION 4.** 2017 Wisconsin Act 295, section 3 is repealed.

**SECTION 5. Nonstatutory provisions.**

(1) **Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program.** The authorized FTE positions for the department of veterans affairs are increased by 10.0 GPR positions on July 1, 2019, to be funded from the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (c), for the purpose of hiring employees to administer the veterans outreach and recovery program within the department of veterans affairs.

**SECTION 6. Effective date.**

(1) **Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program.** This act takes effect on July 1, 2019.