

Report From Agency

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Veterans Affairs**

Report from Agency

RULEMAKING REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

Clearinghouse Rule 20-013

I. THE PROPOSED RULE:

The proposed rule, including the analysis and text, is attached.

II. REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE FORMS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ESTIMATE AND EIA:

The Fiscal Estimate and EIA are attached.

IV. DETAILED STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE BASIS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE, INCLUDING HOW THE PROPOSED RULE ADVANCES RELEVANT STATUTORY GOALS OR PURPOSES:

The objective of the proposed rule is to create a new rule chapter to be designated as Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter VA 11, *Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program*. The proposed rule will establish rules for the implementation and administration of the veterans outreach and recovery program.

The goal of the veterans outreach and recovery program is to assist and support veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, have a mental health or substance use disorder, and to assist the veterans with all aspects of daily living with a focus on home, health, recovery, purpose, and community.

The proposed rules define terms and specify application procedures, eligibility requirements, assessment of applicants, terms of assistance provided, and creates other provisions necessary to administer the program.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs designed the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) to connect veterans to community services and provide case management and support, with a focus on treatment and recovery.

In 2014, the DVA, partnered with the Department of Health Services to develop the initial veterans outreach and recovery program that covered 49 counties in Wisconsin using two one-time federal grants. The federal grants expired, resulting in the termination of the program at the end of 2017.

The 2017 Wisconsin Act 295, enacted on April 16, 2018, made an appropriation and created the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program as a pilot program, enabling the Department to expand the program to include all 72 counties, open up eligibility, and provided a more stable funding source. The program was coordinated by 2 supervisors and 11 regional veterans outreach and recovery coordinators. The pilot program sunset on July 1, 2019.

The 2019 Wisconsin Act 9, enacted on July 3, 2019, created s. 45.48, Stats., and provides a permanent appropriation for the program under s. 20.485(2)(qs), requiring the Department to administer a program for the provision of outreach, mental health services, and support to Wisconsin veterans.

V. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES, EXPLANATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED RULES PROMPTED BY PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were received.

Pursuant to ss. 45.03(2m) and 227.14(2)(a) 6m., Stats., administrative rules prepared by the Department of Veterans Affairs must be provided to the Board of Veterans Affairs. The Board may prepare a report containing written comments and its opinion regarding the proposed rules. The Board of Veterans Affairs was provided a copy of the proposed rules and offered no comments.

VI. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

All recommendations in the Clearinghouse Report were accepted and incorporated into the proposed rule.

VII. REPORT FROM THE SBRRB AND FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS:

N/A