



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 36
[2011 Assembly Bill 96]

Veterans Affairs

Wisconsin Act 36 relates 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 Wisconsin law prior to the enactment of 2011 Wisconsin Act 36, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs was appointed by the Board of Veterans Affairs to serve at the pleasure of the board. The Board of Veterans Affairs was composed of seven members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms. All of the members were required to be veterans, and at least two of the members must have been Vietnam War veterans. Under prior law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs promulgated, with the approval of the board, the rules for administering DVA and for performing DVA's duties.

Wisconsin Act 36 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 who have served on active duty, as defined in s. 45.01 (1), with no requirement that any represent a particular war or conflict.

Wisconsin Act 36 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.

Effective date: July 28, 2011

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.