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1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 295

April 17, 1997 – Introduced by Representatives Musser, Gronemus, Handrick, Albers, Hasenohrl, Seratti, Ryba and Sykora, cosponsored by Senators Breske, Decker and Zien. Referred to Committee on State Affairs.

- $AN\ ACT$ to renumber and amend 125.02 (8m); and to create 125.02 (8m) (a) and
- 2 (b) and 125.02 (20s) of the statutes; **relating to:** changing the legal drinking age for certain people.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The legal drinking age in Wisconsin is currently 21. The legal drinking age is the age at which a person may legally purchase, possess and consume alcohol beverages and enter premises licensed for the sale of alcohol beverages unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse who has attained the legal drinking age. It is also the age at which a person may obtain most alcohol beverages licenses and permits.

This bill lowers the drinking age to 19 for members of the U.S. armed forces, national guard, state defense force, reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or the military forces of this state and for veterans if the lower drinking age does not result in the loss of federal highway funds.

For further information see the *state and local* 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.** 125.02 (8m) of the statutes is renumbered 125.02 (8m) (intro.) and
- 5 amended to read:

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1	125.02 (8m) (intro.) "Legal drinking age" means 21 years of age.:
2	Section 2. 125.02 (8m) (a) and (b) of the statutes are created to read:
3	125.02 (8m) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), 21 years of age.
4	(b) 1. For a member of the U.S. armed forces, national guard, state defense
5	force, reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or the military forces of this state
6	or for a veteran, 19 years of age if the attorney general makes the certification under
7	subd. 2.
8	2. If the federal government changes its authority to withhold federal highway
9	funds under 23 USC 158 so that no funds may be withheld under that provision it
10	this state's legal drinking age is 19 for a member of the U.S. armed forces, national
11	guard, state defense force, reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or the military
12	forces of this state or for a veteran, or if the federal government exempts this state
13	from 23 USC 158, the attorney general shall, within 60 days after the change takes
14	effect, certify that fact to the revisor of statutes.
15	Section 3. 125.02 (20s) of the statutes is created to read:
16	125.02 (20s) "Veteran" means a person who served on active duty under
17	honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces.
18	(END)