

State of Misconsin 1997 - 1998 LEGISLATURE

1997 SENATE BILL 242

- June 10, 1997 Introduced by Senators WELCH and SCHULTZ, cosponsored by Representatives Musser, Dobyns, Grothman, Turner, Goetsch, Schafer, FREESE, ALBERS, SERATTI, HAHN, POWERS, ZUKOWSKI, KLUSMAN, RILEY, BOYLE, OWENS, PLOUFF, SYKORA, KREUSER, BAUMGART and KREIBICH. Referred to Committee on Health, Human Services, Aging, Corrections, Veterans and Military Affairs.
- AN ACT to amend 45.17 and 45.185 (2) of the statutes; relating to: the 1 2
 - information gathered regarding veterans burials.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a county veterans' service officer is required to have buried in a decent and respectable manner in a cemetery in this state a veteran, or spouse of a veteran, who dies without leaving sufficient means to pay for the burial. The county veterans' service officer is required to report to the county clerk the information regarding the veteran's financial condition, the name, rank and command to which the deceased belonged, the occupation of the deceased, the date of death and place of burial and a statement of the burial expenses. This bill removes the requirement to report the rank and command and occupation of the deceased person.

Current law requires each town board, village board and city council to care for the graves and tombstones of deceased veterans and members of women's auxiliary organizations created by an act of Congress and report about that care to the county clerk each year. The annual report includes a listing of the command and rank of each deceased person. This bill removes the requirement to include the command and rank of each deceased person in the report.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

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SECTION 1. 45.17 of the statutes is amended to read:

 $\mathbf{2}$ 45.17 Investigation and report. Before assuming the burial expense, the 3 county veterans' service officer shall make a careful inquiry into and examination of 4 all the circumstances in the case to ascertain the existence of either financial condition required by s. 45.16. The officer shall report to the county clerk that the $\mathbf{5}$ 6 officer found the required financial condition, the facts supporting the finding, and 7 the name, rank and command to which the deceased belonged, the and date of death 8 of the deceased, the place where buried, occupation and an itemized statement of the 9 burial expenses.

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SECTION 2. 45.185 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 45.185 (2) Such bodies shall report to the county clerk of their respective 12 counties, on or before September 1 of each year, the respective locations of the graves 13 so taken care of by them, together with the name and command to which every such 14 member of the armed forces of the United States, including women's auxiliary 15 organizations created by act of congress belonged, his or her rank at the date of death, 16 of the deceased and the amount claimed for such care for a fiscal year from July 1 to 17 June 30.

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(END)