

CHAPTER 45

VETERANS' AFFAIRS, BENEFITS AND MEMORIALS

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45.01 G.A.R. memorial hall; space for.

The department of administration shall provide suitable rooms in the capitol and properly prepare them for the purpose of a memorial hall, designated as the G.A.R. memorial hall, dedicated to the men and women of Wisconsin who served in the armed forces of the United States in the civil war of 1861 to 1865 or in any subsequent wars, as enumerated in s. 45.35 (5) (a) to (g), and the department of veterans affairs shall operate and conduct such memorial hall.

45.02 Memorial collection. The battle flags of Wisconsin units serving in the nation's wars, and all relics and mementos of such wars donated to or otherwise acquired by the state for display in the G.A.R. memorial hall shall constitute the memorial collection. The department of veterans affairs shall catalog and identify all war relics and mementos of the memorial collection, restore, preserve and safeguard such items, procure additions to such collection, provide proper display equipment, and to so display such collection as to make it instructive and attractive to visitors to the state capitol.

45.03 Veterans organizations, headquarters. The department of veterans affairs shall provide space in the memorial hall for the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Wisconsin, and the United Spanish War Veterans, department of Wisconsin, and shall pro-

vide necessary office furniture in such space for such purposes, and shall furnish necessary stationery and other office supplies for such headquarters on the proper voucher of the elected administrative officer of each such organization.

45.04 Superintendent. To carry out the purposes of ss. 45.01 to 45.04, the secretary of veterans affairs shall appoint, with the approval of the board of veterans affairs, a superintendent of the memorial hall for a term of 4 years outside the classified service.

45.05 County and municipal memorials. (1) Any city council, village, town or county board may by gift, purchase, contract or condemnation acquire property, real or personal, for the purpose of providing, furnishing, constructing, erecting, repairing, maintaining, or conducting a suitable memorial to the memory of former residents thereof who lost their lives in the military or naval service of the state or of the United States, or to commemorate and honor the deeds of persons, residents thereof, or of the state or United States, who served the nation in any war, or other persons who rendered great state or national service, or to the memory of any president of the United States, or for a combination of any of such purposes, which are hereby declared to be public purposes.

(2) Such memorial shall be of such character as shall be determined by the governing body of such city, village, town or county, and without limitation because of enumeration, may comprise a public building, hospital, sanatorium, home for the aged or indigent, park, recreation facility, community forest or other suitable object having a public purpose.

(3) Any city council, town, village or county board may appropriate money and may levy a tax in order to acquire, pay for, construct, erect, furnish, equip, operate, repair, maintain or reconstruct a suitable memorial for the purpose or purposes provided in this section.

(4) Any city council or village, town or county board may authorize the use of any public property respectively of such city, village, town or county as a site for a memorial, and any county may authorize its public property to be so used by any city, village or town therein.

(5) Any city council, village, town or county board may by ordinance or contract provide for the management, control or operation of any memorial, and it may enter into a written lease, for a term not exceeding 25 years, with any duly chartered and incorporated veterans' organization established in said town, city or village, such lease to include provisions for the amount of rental and such conditions of public use as it may determine.

(6) Any county, city, village or town that has previously taken action toward the establishment of a monument or memorial under the statutes of 1943 or prior statutes may continue under such previously existing statutes or may proceed under this section.

45.052 Memorial corporations organized under 1919 act. (1) **ADDITIONAL POWERS OF GOVERNING BODY.** Any commission or board of trustees which governs a corporation organized to construct a memorial under s. 45.057 (5), statutes of 1919 to 1943 (created by ch. 598, laws of 1919, and repealed by ch. 301, laws of 1945), shall have the following powers in addition to those it now has:

(a) All powers vested in the members of such corporation by the articles of incorporation or bylaws, including the power to amend the articles of incorporation.

(b) The powers set forth in s. 181.04 and all other applicable provisions of ch. 181.

(c) It may convey any property under its control to any municipality and lease it back under terms agreed upon by the commission or board and the municipality.

(d) It shall have a membership composed of 5 residents of the city, village or town in which the memorial is located, one appointed by the common council of the city, village board or town board of said city, village or town, and 4 by the county judge of the county in which the memorial is located. The commission or board may appoint 2 additional members who are residents of this state. The terms of all members shall be 5 years. In order that terms of members may expire at different times not more than 2 members shall be appointed in any one year in addition to appointments made to fill vacancies occurring by resignation or death. Members shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualify.

(e) It may dissolve the corporation and dispose of the real and personal property of the corporation in a manner which it deems will best serve the purposes for which it was organized and the interests of the community.

(2) **CONFIRMING EXISTENCE AND OPERATION.** Notwithstanding the repeal of s. 45.057, statutes of 1943, by chapter 301, laws of 1945, the continuing existence of all commissions, boards and corporations organized under s. 45.057 (5) is affirmed, and the continuing operation of such commissions, boards and corporations is ratified as to the past and authorized in the future.

45.055 Joint memorials. Any city council or village, town or county board may contract with or make an appropriation, or both, to any other unit of government or to any nonprofit corporation without capital stock organized expressly for any of the purposes of s. 45.05 or to any duly chartered and incorporated veterans' organization established in any such city, village, town or county, and for the purpose of raising funds for such memorial purposes or contributions, may levy taxes upon the taxable property of such unit of government not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar in all which said taxes may be spread over a period of 5 years, or borrow money and issue the bonds of the respective municipalities therefor in the manner and under the regulations provided by ch. 67; provided that the facilities of such memorial are made available to the residents of the governmental unit making such appropriation to the extent that the governing body of the governmental unit may require.

45.058 Memorials in populous counties.

(1) Any county having a population of 500,000 or more may establish and maintain a memorial or memorials under ss. 45.05 and 45.055 by agreement between the county board of such

county and any nonprofit private corporation without capital stock organized under the laws of this state (except as in this section provided) expressly for any of the purposes of s. 45.05 located in such county.

(2) The board of directors of such corporation shall be designated as the "memorial board", and its members shall be styled "trustees". The membership of the memorial board may include special members, who need not be members of the corporation.

(3) The memorial board shall consist of 15 members; of whom 8 may be special members to be elected as provided in this section; and the remaining members shall be elected from the membership of the corporation.

(4) Special members of the memorial board shall be elected by the county board of such county and consist of:

- (a) Four members from the county board, and
- (b) Four members elected from among the residents of the county.

(5) Terms of members of the memorial board shall be:

- (a) For special members:

1. Members elected from the county board shall be elected at the first meeting of the county board following each county board general election and their terms shall commence on that date. They shall hold office during their terms on the county board and until their successors are elected and qualified.

2. Members elected from among the residents shall hold office for 4 years and until their successors are elected, except that the first 4 such members shall be chosen for 1, 2, 3 and 4 years, respectively.

3. Any vacancy in such special membership shall be filled by the county board for the unexpired term, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(b) For elected members from the corporate membership: The terms of such trustees shall be for such numbers of years that those of an equal number, as nearly as may be, shall expire in 2, 3, and 4 years, and successive terms of 4 years each thereafter and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) The articles of incorporation of the corporation shall provide originally or by amendment, in addition to other necessary provisions, and as permitted by this section, for the classification of the members of the corporation, for the election of trustees proportionately from and by such classifications, for the terms of the members of the corporation and for the officers, their duties, and the terms thereof to be elected from the membership.

(7) Any such war memorial may be constructed upon any land ceded before July 15, 1953 by this state to any municipality in this state notwithstanding any restrictions, limitations or conditions as to the nature of the use of any such land contained in the legislative act, granting the land to any such municipality, and notwithstanding such restrictions, limitations or conditions incorporated in any subsequent conveyance of said lands by such municipality.

(8) Any such war memorial may be constructed in any public park and the use of such park lands as a location for a war memorial shall not be deemed to be inconsistent with the use of the same for park purposes. However, no war memorial shall be constructed in a public park until the park commission or park board having jurisdiction of such park shall approve the same. The county board of any county may authorize the construction of a war memorial at different intervals of time if the proposed memorial consists of more than one building or structure and any county board subsequently elected shall carry into effect any contract authorized by s. 45.055 entered into on behalf of such county for the construction or maintenance of such a war memorial. The construction, maintenance and operation of a war memorial in a county park shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the county board and no part of the cost thereof shall be charged against the funds of the park commission or park board of such county.

45.06 Rooms furnished by county or municipality. The action of any county board or municipality, or department thereof, in granting veterans organizations or any other civic, patriotic, educational or historical society, rooms and space within public buildings for the establishment of memorial halls and museums, and occupancy thereof by its members, is authorized and confirmed. Such county board or municipality may permit the use and occupancy of such rooms and space for such term and subject to conditions and provisions as may be imposed by them. Any contract, lien or agreement between said county board; municipality or department thereof and any such organization now in force shall continue in force according to the terms thereof.

45.066 Memorial trees along highways. No person shall cut or trim any tree planted along any federal or state trunk highway as a memorial to the men and women who served in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, without the written permission of the highway commission. Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 nor

more than \$200 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or both. Nothing in this section shall interfere with the rights of abutting property owners in such trees.

45.10 County tax for needy veterans. Every county board shall annually levy, in addition to all other taxes, a tax sufficient to carry out the purposes of this section, such tax to be levied and collected as other county taxes for the purpose of providing aid to needy veterans, the needy wives, widows, minor and dependent children of such veterans and the needy parents of such veterans entitled to aid under ss. 45.10 to 45.15, and to carry out the purposes of ss. 45.16 to 45.185. Aid may not be denied solely on the basis that a person otherwise eligible therefor owns a homestead which he occupies as such.

45.11 Estimate of amount needed. The county veterans' service commission shall estimate the probable amount required under s. 45.10 and shall file such estimate with the county board prior to the adoption of the budget at the November session.

45.12 County veterans' service commission. (1) Every county judge shall on or before the 2nd Monday in December appoint 3 residents of the county, each of whom shall be a veteran, one of such appointees to serve 3 years, one to serve 2 years, and one to serve one year from the date of appointment, as the "County Veterans' Service Commission" of such county.

(2) Such commission shall be organized by the election of one of their number as chairman. Said judge after the expiration of the terms of those first appointed shall annually appoint one person as a member of such commission for the term of 3 years. He shall require each member of the commission and the county veterans' service officer to execute to the county an individual surety bond, with sufficient sureties to be approved by the county judge, each such bond to be in an amount equal to the tax levied in the current year for expenditure by the commission. Each such bond shall be filed with the county clerk.

(3) In counties having a population of 500,000 or more the county executive shall appoint the members of the commission subject to confirmation by the county board but the members holding office on December 14, 1963 shall continue to hold office until their terms expire. Thereafter, their appointment shall be for a term of 3 years as required by sub. (2).

45.13 Records of meetings and investigations kept by service officer. The county veterans' service officer shall serve as executive secretary of the county veterans' service commission and all necessary investigations to determine eligibility for aid under s. 45.10 shall be made by him or under his direction when so requested by the commission. The county service officer in making such investigation may use such facilities for investigating as shall be made available by the county board of such county.

45.14 Commission, examination, aid. Such commission shall meet at the courthouse or at such other place as the county board shall designate on or before the first Monday of January in each year and at such other times as may be necessary. The commission may furnish aid to any person within s. 45.10 if the right of such person to aid shall be established to its satisfaction. The secretary of the commission shall make and deposit with the county clerk a list containing the name, place of residence and the amount to be paid each such person, which shall be signed by the chairman and secretary. The total disbursements made by the commission shall not exceed the amount collected from the tax levied. When such lists are filed the county clerk shall issue an order upon the county treasurer for the sum designated therein in each case and deliver it to the person entitled thereto. The commission may furnish aid in a different manner than by supplying money. The commission may request the county clerk to issue an order upon the county treasurer to a purveyor of services or commodities or the purchase of such services or commodities or the commission may furnish such supplies as it deems best. The commission shall make a detailed report to the county board at each annual session thereof showing the amount expended.

45.15 Commission, compensation. The county board shall allow the members of the commission a reasonable rate of compensation for services and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties to be determined pursuant to s. 59.15. The county board may provide for the employment of clerical assistance to the commission.

45.16 Burial allowance. Each county veterans service officer shall cause to be interred in a decent and respectable manner in any cemetery in this state, other than those used exclusively for the burial of paupers, the body of any person who served in any war of the United States, in the Korean conflict, in the Viet Nam era,

under section 1 of executive order 10957, dated August 10, 1961, or had service which entitled him to receive either the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, or the Viet Nam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, and who was discharged under honorable conditions therefrom after 90 days or more of active service, in the U. S. armed forces, or if having served less than 90 days was honorably discharged for disability incurred in line of duty and who was living in such county at the time of his death, and who dies not leaving sufficient means to defray the necessary expenses of a decent burial, or under financial circumstances which would distress his family to pay the expenses of such burial, and the body of a wife or widow of any such person who dies not leaving such means or under the same financial circumstances and who was living in such county at the time of her death, at an expense to the county of not more than \$300 in addition to the burial allowance payable under laws administered by the veterans administration.

History: 1971 c. 125, 163

45.17 Investigation and report. Such officers before assuming such charge and expense shall make a careful inquiry into and examination of all the circumstances in any such case for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of either of the facts required by s. 45.16, and they shall also report the same to the county clerk of their county, setting forth the fact that they found the family of such deceased person in indigent circumstances and all the facts on which they based their action, together with the name, rank and command to which he belonged, the date of death, the place where buried, his occupation while living and an itemized statement of the expenses of such burial.

45.18 Order for expenses; headstone. The chairman of the board and the clerk of such county on the receipt of such report shall draw an order on the county treasurer for the amount of expenses so incurred, payable to the person designated in the report as being entitled thereto. The county veterans service officer of each county shall, upon the death and burial of any such person living therein at the time of his death, make application to the proper authorities for a suitable headstone as provided for by act of congress, and at the expense of the county cause the same to be placed at the head of his grave.

45.185 Care of soldiers' graves. (1) Every town board, village board or common council

of every city shall at all times see that the graves and tombstones of all members of the armed forces of the United States, including women's auxiliary organizations created by act of congress, who shall at any time have served in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, and of the wives or widows of all such members of the armed forces, receive proper and decent care, and may employ all necessary assistance to carry out this section. The expense of the care of such graves and tombstones shall be borne by the respective counties where the said graves are located, except where suitable care is otherwise provided. The amount of expense so charged the county for such care shall not exceed the charge made for the care of other graves in the same cemetery.

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

(3) The chairman of the board and the clerk of such county, upon receipt of such report, shall draw an order on the county treasurer for the amount of the expenses so incurred, payable to the person or persons designated in said report as entitled thereto.

45.21 Registration of certificate of discharge. Every person who has served in the armed forces of the United States at any time, and who has been honorably discharged or given a certificate of service or relieved from active service may cause to be recorded with the register of deeds of some county within the state, in a suitable book to be provided by the county for that purpose, his or her certificate of discharge or release, said certificate to be accessible only to such person, his dependents, the county veterans service officer, department of veterans affairs, or any person with written authorization from the person discharged or his dependents to see said certificate. The register of deeds so recording such certificate shall make no charge for such service, except that in counties where the register of deeds is under the fee system and not paid a fixed salary he shall be paid a fee of 25 cents, by the county, for each certificate so recorded. The record of any such certificate heretofore made is hereby legalized.

45.27 Preferential rate, Wisconsin general hospital. The rate of charges for care and services at the Wisconsin general hospital to patients named in s. 142.10 shall be as set forth therein. Unless such patients elect to be admitted as private patients, all hospital care and all professional services, including medical, surgical and laboratory services, shall be included in the preferential rate so established.

45.30 Commitment of insane person. (1)

(a) Whenever it appears that any person is eligible for treatment in a U. S. veterans facility and commitment is necessary for the proper care and treatment of such person, any court of record of the county in which the person is found may, upon receipt of a certificate of eligibility from the veterans administration, after adjudging the person insane in accordance with law, direct such person's commitment to the veterans administration for hospitalization in a U. S. veterans facility. Upon admission to any such facility, the person shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the veterans administration. The chief officer of such facility is vested with the same powers exercised by superintendents of state hospitals for mental diseases within this state with reference to the retention, transfer or parole of the person committed.

(b) Notice of pending commitment proceedings shall be furnished the person to be committed and his right to appear and defend shall not be denied. The commitment of a person to a veterans facility within this state by a judge or a court of record of another state under a similar provision of law has the same force as if such commitment were made by a court of this state. After a person has been legally committed to any hospital or asylum for the insane in this state the superintendent of such hospital or asylum in any county having a population of 500,000 or more or the department of health and social services when the commitment has been made to any other such hospital or asylum, upon receipt of a certificate of eligibility from the veterans administration evidencing the right of such person to be admitted to a veterans facility, may transfer such person to such facility and the cost of the person's transportation, together with that of any necessary attendant, shall be a proper charge against such person's care in such institution. After such transfer the powers granted by this section to the superintendent of such veterans facility shall be applicable. Any person transferred as provided in this subsection shall be deemed committed to the veterans administration pursuant to the original commitment.

(2) Before adjudging such person insane in accordance with law, the court, upon the receipt of a certificate of eligibility from the veterans administration, may commit such person to a veterans administration facility to be detained for a reasonable length of time, to be fixed by the court, for the purpose of observation. Whenever an application to determine insanity is made as prescribed by s. 51.01, the court shall make such inquiry as may be necessary and proper to ascertain whether the alleged insane person is eligible for treatment in a veterans administration facility, and shall notify the department of veterans affairs of the pendency of such action and of the commitment.

45.35 Department of veterans affairs. (1) POLICY. It is the policy of the state to give health, educational and economic assistance to veterans and their dependents, who are residents of this state to the extent and under the conditions determined by the board within the limitations hereinafter set forth.

(2) **DEFINITION.** In this chapter "board" means board of veterans affairs.

(3) **BOARD FUNCTIONS.** The board may prescribe rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter and the powers and duties conferred upon them. The records and files of the department of military affairs and of any other state department or officer shall, upon request, be made available to the board.

(4) **DEPARTMENT STAFF.** The secretary shall appoint under the classified service such persons as are necessary to carry out the policy of the board and for the proper conduct of the memorial hall. All persons appointed by the department shall, if possible, be veterans as defined in sub. (5) and preference shall be given to disabled veterans.

(5) **VETERAN DEFINED; BENEFITS.** "Veteran" as used in this chapter, except in s. 45.37 and unless otherwise modified, means any person who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U. S. armed forces which service entitled him to receive either the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, or the Viet Nam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, or for 90 days or more during a war period as enumerated below or under section 1 of executive order 10957, dated August 10, 1961, or if having served less than 90 days was honorably discharged for a service-connected disability or for a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service-connected or died in service, who has been a resident of this state for at least 10 years next preceding

his application or his death or who was a resident of this state at the time of his enlistment or induction into service and is either a resident of and living in this state at the time of making application or is deceased. If the person had more than one qualifying term of service, at least one term of service must have been under honorable conditions or have been terminated by an honorable discharge. Veterans who are otherwise eligible and who are serving on active duty in the U. S. armed forces need not be living in this state on date of application to qualify for benefits from the department. The benefits available to veterans shall also be made available to the unremarried widows, widowers and minor or dependent children of deceased veterans if such widows, widowers or minor or dependent children are residents of and living in this state at the time of making application.

(a) Indian war: Between 1860 and 1898.

(b) Spanish American war: Between April 21, 1898, and April 11, 1899.

(c) Philippine insurrection: Between April 12, 1899, and July 4, 1902 (extended to July 15, 1903, if actually engaged in Moro Province hostilities).

(d) Boxer rebellion: Between June 16, 1900, and May 12, 1901.

(da) Mexican border service: Between June 19, 1916, and April 5, 1917.

(e) World War I: Between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918 (extended to April 1, 1920, if service was in Russia).

(f) World War II: Between August 27, 1940, and July 25, 1947.

(fm) Korean conflict: Between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955.

(g) Viet Nam era: Between August 5, 1964, and a date of termination to be established by the legislature, excepting service on active duty for training purposes only.

(5g) VIET NAM VETERAN DEFINED. "Viet Nam era veteran" as used in s. 20.485 (2) (e) means veteran as defined in sub. (5) (g).

(5m) DEPENDENT DEFINED. "Dependent" of a veteran as used in this section and s. 45.351 includes only:

(a) A wife or husband, an unremarried widow or widower; or a divorced wife only when receiving benefits under a court order.

(b) Any child of the veteran under 18 years of age, or if in full attendance at a recognized school of instruction, or of any age if incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defects. "Child" as used in this section means any natural child, any legally adopted child, any stepchild or child if a member of the veteran's

household or any child born out of wedlock if the veteran acknowledges paternity or the same has been otherwise established.

(c) The natural mother or natural father or a person to whom the veteran stands in loco parentis and who has so stood for not less than 12 months prior to veteran's entrance into active service.

(d) A minor sister or minor brother or a brother or sister of any age if incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defects.

(6) COORDINATION DUTIES. The department shall coordinate the activities of all state agencies performing functions relating to the medical, hospital, or other remedial care, placement and training, educational, economic or vocational rehabilitation of persons who served in the armed forces of the United States at any time and who were honorably discharged, including such persons with disabilities whether or not service-connected or war-connected. In particular it shall coordinate the activities of the board of vocational, technical and adult education, state selective service administration, department of health and social services, department of industry, labor and human relations, department of public instruction, the university of Wisconsin, state universities and other educational institutions, and all other departments or agencies performing any of the functions specified, to the end that the benefits provided in this section may be made available to veterans as promptly and effectively as possible.

(7) CONTACT DUTIES. The department shall maintain contacts with county veterans' service officers and local agencies, the American Red Cross and veterans' organizations concerned with the welfare of veterans and shall contact and co-operate with federal agencies in securing for veterans all benefits to which they may be entitled.

(7a) CLAIMS OF VETERANS, ASSISTANCE. The department upon request shall assist all persons residing in the state having claims against the United States for pensions, bounty or back pay, where such claims have arisen out of or by reason of service in the U. S. armed forces. To this end it shall cooperate with their agents or attorneys, advise as to the legality of claims, furnish all necessary certificates and certified abstracts from and copies of records and documents in its office, and in all practicable ways seek to secure speedy and just action upon all claims now pending or which may hereafter be filed. It shall also, in cases where it may be expedient, act as agent or attorney of record in prosecuting claims for such persons requesting it to do so. For any such services rendered no person in

the employ of the department shall make any charge or demand or receive from the said claimants or any of them, directly or indirectly, any pay or compensation whatever. It shall provide for registration with the register of deeds of each county the names of all persons from such county who died in the services of the United States during the Spanish-American War, Philippine insurrection, Boxer rebellion, Mexican border service, World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict or Viet Nam service.

(8) **MINORS' EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS; BENEFITS EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION.** (a) Any minor who is a veteran and any minor who is the wife, widow or child of a veteran may execute notes, mortgages and other contracts and conveyances to the department and such notes, mortgages, contracts and conveyances shall not be subject to the defense of infancy.

(b) The benefits and aid provided under ss. 45.351 and 45.352 shall not be assignable and shall be exempt from garnishment and execution.

(9) **VOCATIONAL TRAINING.** The department in cooperation with the department of health and social services shall make available to disabled veterans the benefits of vocational training and guidance, including veterans who have filed claims for federal rehabilitation benefits and during the pendency of such claims. In cases where such claims are allowed and federal reimbursement is made to the state, such money shall be paid into and become a part of the veterans trust fund.

(10) **PLACEMENT OF VETERANS.** The department in cooperation with the department of industry, labor and human relations and state selective service administration or any other federal, state or local agency shall formulate and carry out plans for the training and placement of veterans.

(12) **EXPENDITURES.** (a) All expenditures for execution of functions under this section shall be made from the veterans trust fund as provided in s. 20.485.

(b) The secretary shall certify to the department of administration for payment all aid to veterans and their dependents authorized under the rules and regulations of the board and shall certify or approve and forward to it payrolls and other vouchers for other expenditures of the board authorized under such rules and regulations.

(13) **GIFTS.** (a) The department may receive money, lands or other gifts in its name for the benefit of Wisconsin veterans and their dependents, or either, in accordance with policies adopted by the board. Such money shall be de-

posited in the state treasury and credited to the veterans trust fund and is appropriated therefrom by s. 20.485 (2) (z) to the department to be used in accordance with such policies.

(b) The department may also receive moneys or other gifts and bequests in its name for the benefit of the G.A.R. memorial hall. All moneys so received shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the veterans trust fund and is appropriated therefrom by s. 20.485 (2) (z) to the department to be used, as far as practicable in accordance with the wishes of the donors, and in accordance with the policies adopted by the board.

(14) **POWERS, DUTIES, FUNCTIONS.** The department shall, without limitation because of enumeration, also have the following powers, duties and functions:

(a) To assist in the co-ordination of the state, county, municipal and private activities relating to veterans' housing.

(b) To co-operate with any and all federal departments, agencies and independent establishments relating to veterans' housing, materials, priorities and finances.

(c) To assist any housing authority, municipality or other private enterprise engaged in supplying additional veterans' housing in the acquisition of materials, finances, legal aid and compliance with federal rules and regulations.

(d) To utilize the services and facilities of existing state departments and boards and county veterans' service officers. Charges for legal services furnished the department by the department of justice shall be paid from the appropriation in s. 20.485 (2) (u).

(e) To employ such assistants as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

(f) To receive money from federal agencies for the purpose of providing veterans' housing in localities throughout the state.

(g) To perform such other duties as specifically set forth in other sections of the statutes.

(15) **LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION INTENDED.** This section and ss. 45.351, 45.352 and 45.37 shall be construed as liberally as the language permits in favor of applicants.

(16) **DEFERRAL OF PAYMENTS AND INTEREST ON LOANS.** When a veteran or a member of his family makes application for deferment of payment of monthly instalments and waiver of interest charges on veterans' loans made under this chapter, showing that the ability of such veteran to make payment is materially and adversely affected by reason of military service, the department may, with the approval of the board, defer payment of monthly instalments and waive

interest charges on veterans' loans made under this chapter for the duration of any period of service in the armed forces of the United States during a national emergency or in time of war or under P.L. 87-117 and 6 months from date of discharge or separation and the time for payment may be extended for a like period.

(17) **PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS** (a) In any case where the department finds that an applicant for benefits from the department has wilfully made or caused to be made, or conspired, combined, aided or assisted in, agreed to, arranged for, or in any wise procured the making of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement or other writing, it may suspend all benefits available to such applicant from the department under this chapter.

(b) Any person who, with the intent to secure any benefits under this chapter, whether for himself, or for some other person, wilfully makes or causes to be made, or conspires, combines, aids, or assists in, agrees to, arranges for, or in any wise procures the making or presentation of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement, or other writing, may be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both. Such fine or imprisonment may be imposed in addition to the penalty provided in par. (a).

History: 1971 c. 125, 163, 198.

45.351 Economic assistance. (1) The department may extend to any veteran or any of his dependents such temporary emergency aid as it deems advisable to prevent want or distress.

(2) The department may lend any veteran not more than \$3,000 to be used for the purchase of a business or business property or the repairing or adding to his home or business property, the construction of a garage, the education of himself or his children or to provide essential economic assistance, where the veteran's need is established to the satisfaction of the department and he is unable to meet that need from his own resources or available credit upon manageable terms. The department may prescribe loan conditions, but the interest rate shall be 3% per annum and the term shall not exceed 15 years. Loan expense may be charged to the veteran. The department may execute necessary instruments, collect interest and principal, compromise indebtedness, sue and be sued, post bonds and write off indebtedness which it deems uncollectible. Where any loan under this section is secured by a real estate mortgage, the department may exercise the rights of owners and mortgagees generally and the rights and powers

set forth in s. 45.352 (6). Interest and repaid principal shall be paid into the veterans trust fund. The department may lend not more than \$3,000 to any veteran's widow, whether remarried or not, or to the mother of any deceased veteran's children for the education of his minor or dependent child or children if such widow or mother is a resident of and living in this state on the date of application.

(3) The department shall satisfy the loan of any veteran who has obtained a loan under s. 45.35 (8b) from July 11, 1945, to October 1, 1965, or under this section or who obtains a loan under this section in the future where such veteran died or dies after July 1, 1963, and before completing repayment thereof and shall issue a satisfaction of any security instruments executed in connection therewith and write off the balance of principal, interest and costs owing on such loan upon the date it received confirmation of the veteran's death. Obligation to repay such a loan shall terminate on the date of the veteran's death and any payments made thereon to the department after such date shall be refunded to the payor or to his heirs, executor or administrator from the appropriation in s. 20.485 (2) (um) upon receipt by the department of an application for refund. Nothing in this section empowers the department to incur any state debt.

(4) All expenditures for the execution of this section shall be paid out of the appropriation in s. 20.485 (2).

(5) "Child" as used in this section means child as defined in s. 45.35 (5m) (b).

History: 1971 c. 125 s. 552 (1); 1971 c. 198, 199.

45.352 Veterans' housing loans. (1) "Department" as used in this section means the department of veterans affairs.

(2) (a) The department may loan not to exceed \$5,000 for the purchase of a mobile home as defined in s. 66.058 (1) (e) or a home, including land, housing accommodation, garage and other improvements, for the construction of a home including land, housing accommodation and garage or for the improvement of a housing accommodation and garage, to any veteran making application therefor and establishing his qualifications and right to such loan under this section to the satisfaction of the department. Subject to such limitation the amount of each loan shall be fixed by the department with due regard to the conditions and requirements of the applicant. Loans granted under this section shall be paid out of the appropriation in s. 20.485 (2) (y). All receipts of interest and principal on such loans, payments of losses by insurers and any other collections shall be deposited in the veterans trust fund.

(b) The department in administering this section is directed to determine that the total cost to the veteran of any premises to be purchased or constructed by him does not exceed its market value, that the value of the land and non-housing improvements thereon is not disproportionate to the value of the housing accommodation, that the veteran will not be incurring an excessive indebtedness in view of his income, and that the veteran requires a loan in addition to his own funds. If the department determines that the applications for loans exceed the funds available, the department shall give priority to the most necessitous cases and take all action necessary to spread the available funds among the maximum possible number of veterans.

(3) Applications for loans shall be made to the department and shall be in such form and set forth such material information as the department shall prescribe. Each application for loan shall be signed by the veteran applying. The department shall pass upon the merits of each application and may disallow the loan applied for or grant it in whole or in part. Whenever the application and other information given by an applicant is not deemed sufficient or satisfactory for making a determination thereon, the department may use such means of availing itself of the facts as it may deem practical.

(4) A loan under this section shall be granted only to a veteran who:

(a) Requires the loan for the purchase, improvement or construction of a home for himself or for himself and his family.

(b) Is financially able, with the aid of such loan, to conclude the purchase, improvement or construction of such home.

(c) Has available and applies on the total cost of such home, including land, housing accommodation, garage and other improvements, an amount equivalent to at least 5% of such total cost. Such amount may consist of money and other assets, including equity in such home or in land upon which the housing accommodation is to be constructed.

(d) Can show to the satisfaction of the department that the total cost of the housing accommodation including garage, but excluding land and other nonhousing improvements thereon, does not exceed \$25,000, and in the case of improvement loans the total cost of the housing accommodation and garage shall be the original cost plus improvements less normal depreciation.

(4a) The department may grant a loan under this section, to a veteran otherwise eligible hereunder, for the purpose of refinancing existing housing indebtedness or increasing an existing

department housing loan when satisfied as to the need therefor.

(4b) Those veterans otherwise qualified for housing loans under s. 45.35 (5) who remained in or reentered the active military service after World War II are eligible for loans made under this section.

(5) Each loan made under this section shall be repaid to the department in equal monthly instalments commencing upon occupancy by the veteran, and over a period of not to exceed 30 years, with the option to pay additional sums on any instalment-paying day. Such loan shall bear interest at the rate of 3% per annum on unpaid balances of principal and shall be evidenced by a promissory, instalment note payable to the department and executed by the veteran to whom the loan is made. The department may obtain guarantees for such loans under the provisions of section 505 of the servicemen's readjustment act. Except as provided in sub. (5a), the note shall be secured by a mortgage on the real estate in respect to which the loan is granted. Such mortgage shall be substantially in the form, contain the covenants and be executed in the manner prescribed in ch. 706 and shall provide for adequate insurance against loss by fire and wind and that the premises therein described are free and clear of all encumbrances whatsoever. But any such mortgage may be junior and subject to one prior mortgage, and in such case shall include an exception as to such prior mortgage, giving a description thereof. Such mortgage shall have priority over all liens upon the mortgaged premises and the buildings and improvements thereon, except tax and special assessment liens, which are filed after the recording of such mortgage.

(5a) In any exceptional case involving a veteran borrower who is unable to obtain title to the real estate on which his home is located, but whose application otherwise qualifies under this section, the department may accept either a chattel security agreement or an assignment of a long-term lease on real estate, or both such agreement and assignment, or an assignment of vendee's interest in a land contract, to secure a note evidencing a loan made under this section.

(6) The department may accept when necessary to protect a mortgage loan, a quitclaim deed or warranty deed to the mortgaged property in full satisfaction of the mortgage debt (and thereupon to satisfy the same), and manage, operate, lease, exchange, sell and convey, by land contract, quitclaim deed or warranty deed and grant easements in any real property acquired by the department.

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(7) The department shall have and exercise the rights of owners or mortgagees generally. Any payments or expenses necessary to be made to protect the state's investment shall be made from the appropriation made by s. 20.485 (2) (y).

(8) The board shall make such necessary rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the effective and efficient administration of the department's powers, duties and functions under this chapter. Such rules shall be expressly subject to the authority of the committee for review of administrative rules created by s. 13.56.

(9) The department may execute necessary instruments, collect interest and principal, compromise indebtedness, sue and be sued, post bonds, and write off indebtedness which is deemed uncollectible.

(10) Whenever any instalment of principal, interest or other charge payable under the terms of a note or mortgage given under this section becomes delinquent, the department may, upon application of the mortgagor and by agreement in writing executed by the parties, extend the time within which the obligation under such note and mortgage or any part thereof shall be paid, reduce the amount of monthly instalments and provide such other terms and conditions relative to the time and manner of repaying the obligation as the department deems necessary and reasonable in view of all the circumstances of the case. If the department finds an application is made without sufficient cause to justify granting relief under this subsection it may deny the same.

(11) **MORTGAGE CANCELLATION LIFE INSURANCE.** If upon a canvass to be conducted by the department it is found that not less than 60% of the mortgagors under this section agree thereto, the department may provide mortgage cancellation life insurance for any present and future mortgagors under this section. If it is so found:

(a) The department shall procure bids for the purchasing of such insurance in compliance with the laws governing the purchase and furnishing of services to state agencies.

(b) Every mortgagor under this section who is qualified shall be insured.

(c) The insurance shall insure the life of the mortgagor for the amount of principal and interest due on the state loan, and the state shall be named the beneficiary. If the mortgagor, at any time while still owning the property and before paying off the loan, dies, the insurance shall be used to pay the balance of the state loan, and the director shall issue a satisfaction of the mortgage.

(d) The department shall pay the premiums from the appropriation made by s. 20.485 (2) (y) and require the mortgagors to repay their prorate share of the premiums at such times and in such amounts as shall be determined by the department.

History: 1971 c. 198, 199, 307.

45.353 Grants to veterans organizations.

(1) In this section:

(a) "State veterans organization" means a state organization or department of a national veterans organization, which national organization is incorporated by an act of congress.

(b) "Regional office" means the veterans administration regional office in Wisconsin.

(2) Upon application the department shall pay to any state veterans organization, which establishes that it, or its national organization, or both, has maintained a full-time service office at the regional office for at least 5 of the 10 years preceding the date of application, a sum equal to 25% of all salaries and travel expenses paid during the previous fiscal year specified under sub. (3) by such state veterans organization to employes engaged in veterans claims service and stationed at such regional office, except that the sum paid to each such state veterans organization annually shall not be less than either \$2,500, or the amount of salaries and travel expenses paid by such state veterans organization to employes stationed at such regional office, whichever is less, nor more than \$7,500.

(3) Application by any such state veterans organization shall be filed annually with the department for the 12-month period commencing on April 1 and ending on March 31 of the year in which it is filed. An application shall contain a statement of salaries and travel expenses paid to employes engaged in veterans claims service maintained at the regional office by such state veterans organization covering the period for which application for a grant is made, which statement has been certified as correct by an accountant certified under ch. 442 and sworn to as correct by the adjutant or principal officer of the state veterans organization. The application shall also contain the state organization's financial statement for its last completed fiscal year and such evidence of claims service activity as the department requires. Sufficient evidence shall be submitted with an initial application to establish that the state veterans organization, or its national organization, or both, has maintained a full-time service office at the regional office without interruption throughout 5 years out of the 10-year period immediately preceding such application. Subsequent applications must

be accompanied by an affidavit by the adjutant or principal officer of such state veterans organization stating that a full-time service office was maintained at the regional office by such state veterans organization, or by such state organization and its national organization, for the entire 12-month period for which application for a grant is made.

(4) The board may establish such rules as are necessary to administer this section.

History: 1971 c. 42

45.355 Biennial study of fiscal needs for veterans' housing. Biennially the joint finance committee of the legislature shall study and review the fiscal requirements for veterans' housing loans and the condition of the veterans trust fund and thereupon shall make report thereon to the legislature with a view to recommending proper appropriations to adequately provide for such loans. All appropriations made by the legislature for veterans' housing loans pursuant to recommendations so made by the joint finance committee shall be from the veterans trust fund or the general fund or both, as the needs may require.

45.36 Release of information and records by the department of veterans affairs and county veterans service offices. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Department" means the department of veterans affairs.

(b) "Service office" means a county veterans service office.

(c) "Duly authorized representative" means any person authorized in writing by the veteran to act for him, or his legally constituted representative if the veteran is incompetent or deceased. Where for proper reason no such representative has been or will be appointed, his spouse, an adult child, or if the veteran is unmarried, either of his parents shall be recognized as the duly authorized representative of the veteran.

(2) **SEPARATION DOCUMENTS.** Separation documents and copies thereof evidencing service in the armed forces of the U. S. are confidential and privileged. Examination of such records in the possession of the department or service office will be limited to authorized employes of the department or service office and information entered thereon will be disclosed only to veterans and their duly authorized representatives or to interested governmental agencies for the purpose of assisting veterans and their dependents to obtain the rights and benefits to which they may be entitled.

(3) **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION RECORDS.** Records and papers in the possession of the department or service office which are released to the department or service office by or from the veterans administration or which contain information provided by the veterans administration are confidential. Release of information from such records or papers may be made only pursuant to veterans administration regulations.

(4) **INVESTIGATION.** All reports of investigation made by employes of the department or at the direction of the department for official departmental purposes are for the use of the director and his staff only. Materials and information which disclose the investigative techniques of the department or the identity of confidential informants and material received in confidence by representatives of the department will not be released.

(5) **DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY BENEFITS.** The department shall disclose to any person who requests such information the amount of any grant or loan made by the department to any applicant. A person seeking such information shall be required to sign a statement setting forth his name, his address, his reason for making such request and certifying that he will not use the information obtained for commercial or political purposes.

(6) **DISCLOSURE OF OTHER INFORMATION.** Except as provided in subs. (2) to (5), all files, records, reports, papers and documents pertaining to applications for benefits from the department, and information contained therein, shall only be released by the department or service office pursuant to rules of the department. Such rules must provide for the furnishing of information required for official purposes by any agency of the U.S. government, any agency of this state, any law enforcement or public welfare agency of any Wisconsin county or municipality, or by members of the state senate and assembly, and will otherwise provide for release of personal information pertaining to or contained in any application for benefits, whether pending or adjudicated, only where authorized in writing by the applicants or where necessary to assist applicants in securing veterans benefits to which they may be entitled or where necessary for the efficient management of loans made by the department.

History: 1971 c. 198.

45.365 Grand Army home; management.

(1) The department of veterans affairs, hereafter in this section and in s. 45.37 referred to as the department, shall operate and conduct the Grand Army home for veterans at King, here-

after in this section and in s. 45.37 referred to as the home, and employ a commandant and such officers, nurses, attendants and other personnel as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the home. In compliance with the compensation plan established pursuant to s. 16.086 (3) it may recommend to the director of personnel charges for meals, living quarters, laundry and other services furnished to employes and members of the employes' family maintained as such. All moneys received from every person for or on account of such services shall be paid within one week after receipt into the general fund and shall be credited to the appropriation provided for this purpose by ch. 20. Complete personal maintenance and medical care to include programs and facilities which promote comfort, recreation, well-being or rehabilitation, shall be furnished all members under the policy of the department.

(2) The department may acquire, by gift, purchase or condemnation, lands necessary for the purposes of the home. Title thereto shall be taken in the name of this state and shall be held by and for the uses and purposes of said home so long as used for the present objects and purposes thereof. No payment shall be made out of the state treasury or otherwise for any such land until the title has been examined and approved by the attorney general. Every such deed of conveyance shall be immediately recorded in the office of the proper register of deeds and thereafter filed with the secretary of state.

(2a) The department may use moneys appropriated pursuant to s. 20.485 (1) (h) to purchase, erect, construct or remodel buildings, and to provide additions and improvements thereto, and to provide equipment therefor and to provide materials, supplies and services necessary for the purposes of the home, and for such expenses as may be necessary and incidental to acquisition of property pursuant to s. 45.37 (10) and (11).

(2b) The department may accept gifts, bequests, grants or donations of money or of property from private sources to be administered by the department for the purposes of the home. All moneys so received shall be paid into the general fund and are appropriated therefrom as provided in s. 20.485 (1) (h).

(3) The commandant and employes designated by him may summarily arrest all persons within or upon the grounds of said institution who are guilty of any offense against the laws of this state or the rules and regulations governing said home; and for such purpose the commandant and his deputies have all the power of constables.

(5) The fire department at the home in response to emergency fire calls may make runs and render fire fighting service beyond the confines of the home.

History: 1971 c. 270 s. 104.

45.37 Who are eligible to membership.

(1) **GENERAL STATEMENT.** Within the limitations of the facilities of the home, the department may admit to membership in the home persons who meet the qualifications set forth in this section.

(1a) **DEFINITION OF VETERAN.** "Veteran" as used in this section means any person who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces who was entitled to receive either the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, or the Viet Nam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, or for at least one day during a war period, as defined in s. 45.35 (5) (a) to (g) or under section 1 of executive order 10957, dated August 10, 1961, and who was officially reported missing in action, killed in action or who died in service, or who was discharged under honorable conditions therefrom after 90 days or more of active service, or if having served less than 90 days was honorably discharged for a service-connected disability or for a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service connected, or who died as a result of service-connected disability.

(2) **BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.** A veteran may be admitted to the home if he:

(a) **Residence.** Was a resident of this state at the time of entering service with the armed forces and is a resident of this state on the date of application for membership. Residence may not be initiated by residence in a U.S. veterans administration facility.

(b) **Disability test.** Is permanently incapacitated due to physical disability or age from following any substantially gainful occupation.

(c) **Age.** Is 50 years of age or over.

(d) **Crimes.** Has not been convicted of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude or, if so, has produced sufficient evidence of subsequent good conduct and reformation of character as to be satisfactory to the department.

(e) **Chronic ailments.** Is not a chronic alcoholic, drug addict, psychotic or active tuberculosis case.

(f) **Assets.** Reports or has total assets under \$1,000, unless prior to admission to the home the applicant turns over all assets in excess of \$1,000 to the department in prepayment for care and maintenance actually provided by the home.

during the period of residence. Property or any interest therein conveyed or disposed of by the applicant within 5 years immediately prior to application for admission by gift or for less than adequate consideration shall be considered assets upon admission to the extent of the value of the gift or to the extent consideration therefor was inadequate unless such assets were conveyed to the state or unless it is determined by the department that the conveyance or disposal of such assets had no relation to prospective entrance into the home. All such assets turned over to the department shall be converted to cash as soon as practicable after the applicant is admitted to membership but, in the event the applicant's homestead is occupied by his legal dependents as their sole residence, the department shall make such homestead and household furniture and fixtures therein available to them for as long as it is so occupied, and such legal dependents shall be responsible for all expenses incidental to such occupancy and use. In the event such expenses incidental to such occupancy and use are not paid by such legal dependents, including without limitation because of enumeration, real estate taxes, special assessments, insurance premiums, mortgage instalment payments, and payment for repairs, in its sole discretion the department may pay such expenses from the appropriation in s. 20.485 (1) (h).

(g) *Satisfaction of lien.* If a member whose homestead has not been sold and whose legal dependents are occupying such homestead dies, the department shall quitclaim its interest in such homestead to such legal dependents either upon payment to the department of an amount equal to all expenditures made by it on such homestead pursuant to par. (f) or upon execution by such legal dependents of a promissory, instalment payment note, to the department in such amount within 6 months after the member's death. Such note shall bear interest at the rate of 7% per annum on unpaid balances of principal and shall be secured by a real estate mortgage on such homestead. Any quitclaim deed executed by the department under this subsection shall include household furniture and furnishings in the homestead. If such payment is not made or such note and mortgage executed within 6 months of the member's death, his legal dependents shall be divested of all right, title and interest in and to such homestead.

(3) **EXCEPTIONS TO THE BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.** (a) *Under 50 years of age.* A disabled veteran under 50 years of age, if otherwise qualified, may be admitted if unable to secure adequate care from the federal government.

(b) *Nonresident.* A veteran who was not a resident of this state at the time of his enlistment or induction into service but who is otherwise qualified for membership may be admitted if he has been a resident of this state for the 10 years next preceding the date of application.

(4) **ADMISSION PRIORITIES.** (a) *Order of eligibility of veterans.* Applications except in cases where there is an immediate need for physical care or economic assistance shall be passed upon in order of priority in point of time of commencement of the military service upon which the privilege of membership in the home is based.

(b) *Basis for eligibility of nonveterans.* Wives, widows and mothers derive their eligibility from the eligibility of the veteran upon whose service it is based.

(c) *Order of priority.* The order of priority for admission to the home shall be as follows:

1. Eligible veterans shall have 1st priority;
2. Wives of eligible veterans shall be given 2nd priority;
3. Widows of eligible veterans shall be given 3rd priority;
4. Mothers of eligible veterans shall be given 4th priority;
5. The department may deviate from this sequence upon order of the board in order to prevent the separation of a family unit of husband and wife.

(5) **ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF A WIFE OF A VETERAN.** A wife of an eligible veteran is eligible only if she meets the requirements of sub. (2) (d) to (f) and if:

(a) Her husband is a member, or if not a member is institutionalized elsewhere because of physical or mental disability, and she had lived with such husband not less than one year immediately before making application for membership.

(b) Separation from such husband necessitated by reason of employment, hospitalization or because of a physical or mental disability of either husband or wife shall not be taken to constitute an interruption of such one-year period.

(c) A wife of an eligible veteran by virtue of a bona fide marriage invalidly entered into but validated prior to application for admission shall, for the purpose of this subsection and sub. (6), be considered married to such eligible veteran from the date such invalid marriage was entered into.

(6) **ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF A WIDOW.** The widow of a veteran who was a resident of this state at the time of his death, is eligible if she meets the requirements of sub. (2) (d) to (f) and if she:

(a) Was married to and living with her veteran husband not less than one year immediately prior to the death of her veteran husband, or was married to the veteran at the time he entered the service and was widowed by the death of her spouse in the service or as a result of physical disability incurred during such service, or the period during which she was married to and lived with her spouse plus the period of her widowhood is one year or more, or if she was married to and living with her veteran husband less than one year and a child was born of the marriage; and

(b) Has not remarried; and

(c) Is 45 years of age or over on the date of application; and

(d) Is physically disabled; and

(e) Is unable adequately to care for herself and lacks adequate means of support; and

(f) Has been a resident of this state for the 5 years immediately preceding the date of her application for membership.

(7) **ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF MOTHERS.** The mother of a veteran who was a resident of this state at the time of his death or, the mother of a living veteran who is eligible for membership, is eligible if she meets the requirements of sub. (2) (d) to (f) and if she:

(a) Has reached 60 years of age; and

(b) Has been a resident of this state for the 5 years next preceding the date of application for membership; and

(c) Is physically disabled, unable adequately to care for herself and lacks adequate means of support.

(8) **EFFECT OF CHANGE IN STANDARDS.** The members of the home on July 7, 1949 shall not be required to requalify for membership because of changes made in eligibility standards unless they are subsequently discharged and later apply for re-entry into the home, or unless the financial or physical status of any member has changed or improved so that he would no longer be eligible for admission under the standards applicable at the time of his admission.

(9) **MEMBER INCOME RETENTION AND PAYMENT.**

(a) *Maximum retention.* Each member of the home, regardless of the date of his admission, may retain \$40.50 of his monthly income plus an amount equal to the payment which would otherwise be due him for services rendered the home under its work therapy program and shall pay all of his remaining income into the general fund of the state.

(b) *Married couples.* If husband and wife are both members, their monthly incomes shall be combined before computing the amount each will be permitted to retain under par. (a).

(c) *Work therapy program compensation.*

The board shall establish a pay plan for compensation of members for services rendered to the home under its work therapy program. A member participating in such program, whose monthly income is insufficient to permit him to retain the amount set forth in par. (a), shall receive direct payment thereunder from the department on the basis of the amount due him for such services or on the basis of the difference between his total monthly income and the amount he would be permitted to retain under par. (a) if his income was sufficient to permit maximum retention, whichever is less.

(d) *Member income payments.* Payments of the amounts due the state shall be made at such time and in such amounts as the board provides by rule.

(e) *Veterans administration payments.* Payment of amounts due the state shall be made to the fullest extent possible from sources of income other than pension or compensation paid by the U.S. veterans administration.

(f) *Remission of income.* The department may remit, from amounts paid by a member, such sums monthly as it deems necessary for the care of his nonmember dependents.

(g) *"Income" defined.* "Income", in this section, means money, property or anything of monetary value received from any source to which a member may become entitled subsequent to admission, including without limitation because of enumeration: all pensions from state, federal or private sources, annuities, social security payments, railroad retirement, public or private retirement, compensation, wages, salary, alimony, rents, interest, dividends, profits, return on investment, moneys received for loss, damage or injury, awards, gifts, devises, bequests and hereditaments, inheritances, discoveries, powers and insurance benefits but shall not include payment to a member for services rendered to the home under its work therapy program or income received by a member from the sale of products or services through the hobby shop. Any renunciation or transfer of income by a member shall be void.

(h) *Home exchange.* The operation of the home exchange, including the operation of the hobby shop for the sale of products made by all members, shall be conducted under the supervision of the department.

(9a) **ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF PAYMENT.** If the pension payments to a member are suspended because his estate or account exceeds the limit established by the veterans administration, the department may, in lieu of the procedures set forth in sub. (9), direct that the per diem cost for

the care of the member be charged to the estate or account of the member.

(9c) **HANDLING OF MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS.** All funds held by the home for the members not needed by the members for their own use shall be deposited in a bank in the form of certificates of deposit in the name of the home, and the interest therefrom shall be paid annually into the gifts and bequests fund of the home for the purposes for which that fund exists.

(9d) **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.** All moneys received under title XIX of the social security act for the care of members shall be transferred to the general fund.

(10) **CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY; DESCENT.**

(a) The application and admission of any applicant heretofore or hereafter admitted hereunder shall constitute a valid and binding contract between such member and the department. If any member of the home dies without legal dependents, his real property shall descend and his personal property shall be distributed to the state as sole heir for the sole use and benefit of the home, and no will, previously or hereafter drawn, making a contrary disposal shall be valid; except that a member whose member spouse dies shall have the right to use all personal property of the deceased spouse for the rest of the survivor's lifetime and such property shall not be considered income under sub. (9), and except that personal effects of nominal monetary value of a deceased member who is not survived by a member spouse may be distributed by the commandant to surviving relatives of such member who request such personal effects immediately after such member's death.

(b) Sections 49.25 and 49.26 shall take precedence over par. (a) whenever old-age assistance is granted to members.

(c) The department may manage, sell, lease or transfer property descending to the state pursuant to this section or conveyed to it by members, defend and prosecute all actions concerning it, pay all just claims against it, and do all other things necessary for the protection, preservation and management of such property.

(d) A person who at the time of his death was a member of the home shall be deemed an inhabitant of or resident in Waupaca county for the probate of his will and issuance of letters testamentary and the administration of his estate.

(11) **DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY DESCENDING TO STATE.** If a member of the home dies leaving at the home cash or other personal property of a value not exceeding \$1,000, the commandant of the home may turn over such property or its proceeds to the state treasurer for the sole use and benefit of the home, without admin-

istration, subject to refund within 6 years to any creditor or legal dependent who shall establish his right to the fund or property or any portion thereof. The attorney general upon being satisfied that a claim out of such funds or property is legal and valid may certify the same to the state department and the department shall pay the same out of such funds or property, except that payment of claims for a member's funeral and burial expenses may not exceed \$300 in addition to the amount allowed by the United States for the member's funeral and burial and the right for burial and interment provided in sub. (15) (a).

(12) **CARE AS LIEN ON ASSETS OF MEMBER.**

(a) The net cost to the state of the care and maintenance of a member, as determined under rules promulgated by the department, constitutes a lien as hereafter provided and remains a lien until satisfied. The department shall issue for each member a certificate of lien setting forth: the name and residence of the member, the fact that he has received and will continue to receive care and maintenance at the Grand Army home, a statement that the net cost to the state of such care and maintenance constitutes a lien on the real property of the member presently owned or subsequently acquired (including joint tenancy and homestead interests) and such other information required by the department. The department shall file the certificate, or a copy thereof, in the office of the register of deeds of every county in which real property of the member is situated. The certificate need not be recorded at length by the register of deeds, but upon filing thereof all persons are charged with notice of the lien and the rights of the state. The register of deeds shall keep a record of every lien filed in the same book and under the same provisions applying to old-age assistance liens pursuant to s. 49.26 (6).

(b) Upon filing as in par. (a) the lien herein imposed attaches to all real property of the member including a house trailer used as an abode presently owned or subsequently acquired (including joint tenancy and homestead interests) in any county in which such certificate is filed for the amount of the net cost to the state for care and maintenance furnished or thereafter furnished to the member and it remains a lien until satisfied. The lien shall not sever a joint tenancy nor affect the right of survivorship except that the lien shall be enforceable to the extent that the member had an interest prior to his decease. The lien takes priority over any lien or conveyance subsequently acquired, made or recorded, except tax liens.

(c) Upon termination of membership in the home, the liens shall be enforceable by the state in the manner provided for the enforcement of mechanics' liens upon real property. In any action to foreclose such a lien the statute of limitations shall not constitute a defense. No such lien shall be enforced against the homestead of the member while it is occupied by him, a surviving spouse or by any minor children, or any incapacitated adult children of the member.

(d) Upon death of a member or former member, the county court may order sale of real estate which is subject to the lien herein imposed free and clear of the lien, and the lien shall attach to the net proceeds of the sale after taxes, prior encumbrances and costs of sale have been deducted. However, the expenses of administration, burial and last illness allowed by the court which remain unpaid after all personalty has been applied thereto according to law, but not to exceed \$300 in the aggregate, shall be charges against all real property of the deceased and shall be paid prior to the lien, in the order named, out of the proceeds derived from the real property upon liquidation of the lien.

(e) At any time the department is satisfied that the collection of the amount owing to the state will not be jeopardized or that the release of the lien in whole or in part is necessary to provide for the maintenance of the member, his spouse, or minor children, or incapacitated adult child, it may release the lien as to all or any part of the real property of the member, including a house trailer used as an abode, which release shall be filed in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the certificate is filed. The member, his heirs, personal representatives or assigns may discharge such lien at any time by paying the amount thereof to the department, which shall execute a satisfaction which shall be filed with the register of deeds.

(f) The department may bid in property at foreclosure under par. (c) at a price not to exceed the amount owing the state, which amount or any part thereof may be applied as a credit on such a bid, or such agency or official may accept a conveyance in lieu of foreclosure. Title to property acquired vests in the department for the purpose of liquidation, and may be sold and title transferred by it.

(g) The department may make and pay for necessary and essential repairs, pay taxes or purchase tax certificates or pay balances due on land contracts so as to enable a member to receive a deed, or pay and cause to be satisfied existing mortgages or any other prior liens on property on which the state has such a lien, and the amount of such expenditures shall be added to the amount of the lien.

(h) The department may accept or execute all necessary instruments, manage property acquired hereunder and take necessary part in the administration of decedents' estates to effectuate this subsection. The department shall have and exercise the rights of owners of real property or liens generally, whichever the case may be.

(i) After probate or administration proceedings have been initiated and notice to the creditors given, as required by s. 859.07, and it appears from the inventory filed in said estate that the amount of the lien owing to the state exceeds the value of estate assets, after deducting such expenses as provided in par. (d), the court may order summary closing proceedings under s. 867.01 and assign the real estate, if any, to the state.

(13) MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO PRIVILEGE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL. Section 142.10 is applicable to veterans while members of the home, subject to the same restrictions and with the same privileges now enjoyed by other veterans at the Wisconsin general hospital. Costs incident to the hospitalization of members of the home shall be paid from the appropriation for the operation of the home.

(14) POWERS OF COMMANDANT OVER PERSONAL FUNDS OF MEMBERS. The commandant of the home may receive, disburse and account for personal funds of members of the home, other than state funds or old-age assistance payments, received from any source, under policies adopted by the board of veterans affairs; except that the personal funds, income or property of members receiving old-age assistance shall be subject to ss. 49.25 and 49.26.

(15) ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL AND INTERMENT AT THE HOME. (a) Any veteran who at the time of his death was a resident of this state, shall be eligible for burial and interment at the cemetery of the home which shall be known as the "Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery". Cost of preparing grave and erection of marker shall be paid from the appropriation made by s. 20.485 (1) (a).

(b) Burial shall be provided in the cemetery of the home for any wife, widow or mother of a veteran where such wife, widow or mother at the time of her death was a member of the home. Burial shall also be provided in the cemetery of the home for the mother or widow of a veteran who is not a member where she within 6 months after the veteran's burial in the cemetery of the home applies to the department for permission to be buried therein at her own expense. The widow of the veteran shall have the privilege of selecting a lot next to her husband if available. Permission shall be given by the department for

a period of one year from date of granting, but may be extended, on her request, for additional one-year periods.

(c) Expenses incident to the burial at the home of a member shall be paid from the estate of the decedent, except that if there is no estate or the estate is insufficient, the expense of burial, or necessary part thereof, shall be paid from the appropriation made by s. 20.485 (1) (a) and the amount expended therefor shall not exceed the amount therein specified.

(16) **PREPAID CARE ACCOUNTS.** (a) Excess assets paid to the department under sub. (2) (f) and all income paid into the general fund of the state under sub. (9) shall constitute a member's prepaid care account.

(b) The actual cost of each member's care and maintenance at the home shall be computed monthly, and paid from the member's prepaid care account balance, if any, into the general fund to the extent of the member's contribution of excess assets and are appropriated therefrom as provided in s. 20.485 (1) (h), and thereafter into the general fund.

(c) In the event a member's prepaid care account balance is insufficient to pay the full monthly cost of care and maintenance, payment shall be made as provided in sub. (b) to the extent of the prepaid care account balance, but no deficit resulting shall be carried forward and charged against new accruals to such member's prepaid care account.

(d) Balances in a member's prepaid care account shall be considered prepayment for complete personal maintenance and medical care of the member for his lifetime to be provided by the department and shall not be considered assets of the member.

(e) If a member is discharged from the home all excess assets not converted to cash or contracted to be sold shall be returned to the member and the department shall quitclaim its interest in any homestead turned over to the department by the member as excess assets and not converted to cash or contracted to be sold, and there shall be refunded to him an amount equal to the unused balance remaining in his prepaid care account and the net proceeds ultimately realized from the sale of assets contracted to be sold on date of discharge, less actual cost of care and maintenance for month of discharge not paid to date of discharge.

(f) Upon death of a member any unexpended balance remaining in his prepaid care account shall lapse and any excess assets turned over to the department and not converted to cash, including the member's homestead if not occupied by his legal dependents or conveyed to the de-

partment jointly by the decedent and his member spouse, shall be converted to cash, and all such amounts shall be paid into the general fund and are appropriated therefrom as provided in s. 20.485 (1) (h), and such balance and excess assets shall not be considered assets of the decedent for any purpose. A homestead conveyed to the department jointly by the decedent and his member spouse which has not been sold on the date of his death shall become a part of the surviving spouse's prepaid care account.

History: 1971 c. 40, 42, 198

An application for admission to the home constitutes a contract for purposes of 45.37 (9), and a resident must surrender property only as called for by the statute at the time of application, not as later amended. Estate of Nottingham, 46 W (2d) 580, 175 NW (2d) 640.

45.38 Department, additional powers to provide structures, facilities and permanent improvements. (1) In this section unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Existing building" in relation to any conveyance, lease or sublease made under sub. (2) (a) 1, 2 and 3 means all detention, treatment, administrative, recreational, infirmary, hospital, vocational and academic buildings; all dormitories and cottages; all storage facilities, heating plants, sewage disposal plants and such other buildings, structures, facilities and permanent improvements as in the judgment of the board are needed or useful for the purposes of the department, and all equipment therefor and all improvements and additions thereto which were erected, constructed or installed prior to the making of such conveyance, lease or sublease.

(b) "New building" in relation to any conveyance, lease or sublease made under sub. (2) (a) 1, 2 and 3 means all detention, treatment, administrative, recreational, infirmary, hospital, vocational and academic buildings; all dormitories and cottages; all storage facilities, heating plants, sewage disposal plants, and such other buildings, structures, facilities and permanent improvements as in the judgment of the board are needed or useful for the purposes of the department, and all equipment therefor and all improvements and additions thereto which are erected, constructed or installed after the making of such conveyance, lease or sublease.

(c) "Nonprofit corporation" means a non-stock, nonprofit corporation organized under ch. 181 or any law amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto.

(2) The department shall have and may exercise the powers and duties provided in this section.

(a) In order to provide new buildings and to enable the construction and financing thereof, to refinance indebtedness hereafter created by a

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nonprofit corporation for the purpose of providing a new building or buildings or additions or improvements thereto which are located on land owned by, or owned by the state and held for, the department or on lands of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the department or by the nonprofit corporation, or for any one or more of said purposes, but for no other purpose unless authorized by law, the department has the following powers and duties:

1. Without limitation by reason of any other provisions of the statutes, the power to sell and to convey title in fee simple to a nonprofit corporation any land and any existing buildings thereon owned by, or owned by the state and held for, the department or of any of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the department for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as in the judgment of the board are in the public interest

2. The power to lease to a nonprofit corporation for a term or terms not exceeding 50 years each any land and any existing buildings thereon owned by, or owned by the state and held for, the department or of any of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the department upon such terms and conditions as in the judgment of the board are in the public interest.

3. The power to lease or sublease from such nonprofit corporation, and to make available for public use, any land or any such land and existing buildings conveyed or leased to such nonprofit corporation under subds. 1 and 2, and any new buildings erected upon such land or upon any other land owned by such nonprofit corporation, upon such terms, conditions and rentals, subject to available appropriations, as in the judgment of the board are in the public interest.

4. The duty to submit the plans and specifications for all such new buildings and all conveyances, leases and subleases made under this section to the department of administration and the governor for written approval before they are finally adopted, executed and delivered.

5. The power to pledge and assign all or any part of the revenues derived from the operation of any land or such new buildings as security for the payment of rentals due and to become due under any lease or sublease of such new buildings under subd. 3.

6. The power to covenant and agree in any lease or sublease of any land or new buildings made under subd. 3 to impose fees, rentals or other charges for the use and occupancy or other operation of such new buildings in an amount calculated to produce net revenues sufficient to pay the rentals due and to become due under such lease or sublease.

7. The power to apply all or any part of the revenues derived from the operation of any land or existing buildings to the payment of rentals due and to become due under any lease or sublease made under subd. 3.

8. The power to pledge and assign all or any part of the revenues derived from the operation of any land or existing buildings to the payment of rentals due and to become due under any lease or sublease made under subd. 3.

9. The power to covenant and agree in any lease or sublease made under subd. 3 to impose fees, rentals or other charges for the use and occupancy or other operation of any land or existing buildings in an amount calculated to produce net revenues sufficient to pay the rentals due and to become due under such lease or sublease.

10. The power and duty, upon receipt of notice of any assignment by any such nonprofit corporation of any lease or sublease made under subd. 3, or of any of its rights under any such sublease, to recognize and give effect to such assignment, and to pay to the assignee thereof rentals or other payments then due or which may become due under any such lease or sublease which has been so assigned by such nonprofit corporation.

(b) The state shall be liable for accrued rentals and for any other default under any lease or sublease made under par. (a) 3, and may be sued therefor on contract as in other contract actions pursuant to ch. 285, except that it shall not be necessary for the lessor under any such lease or sublease or any assignee of such lessor or any person or other legal entity proceeding on behalf of such lessor to file any claim with the legislature prior to the commencement of any such action.

(c) Nothing in this section empowers the board or the department to incur any state debt.

(d) All powers and duties conferred upon the board or the department pursuant to this section shall be exercised and performed by resolution of the board. All conveyances, leases and subleases made pursuant to this section, when authorized pursuant to resolution of the board, shall be made, executed and delivered in the name of the department of veterans affairs and shall be signed by the director and sealed with the seal of the department.

(e) All laws, conflicting with any provisions of this section, are, insofar as they conflict with this section and no further, superseded by this section.

45.396 Correspondence courses and part-time classroom study. Any veteran

upon the completion of any correspondence courses or part-time classroom study from the university of Wisconsin, from any state university, from any other institution of higher education located in Wisconsin which was accredited by the north central association of colleges and secondary schools on April 1, 1971, or from any vocational, technical and adult education school receiving aids from the board of vocational, technical and adult education or from any public or private high school, taken upon authorization of the department of veterans affairs, may be reimbursed in whole or in part for the cost of such courses, including necessary textbooks, by the department upon presentation to the department of a certificate from the school indicating that he has completed the courses and stating the cost of such courses and necessary textbooks. Benefits granted under this section shall be paid out of the appropriation under s. 20.485 (2) (um).

History: 1971 c. 42; 1971 c. 125 s. 522 (1); 1971 c. 154, 198, 307.

45.40 Camp American Legion. (1) The department of veterans affairs may transfer from the soldiers' rehabilitation fund to the Wisconsin state department of the American Legion the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing the buildings and equipment at Camp Minnewawa, located on state land between Tomahawk lake and Big Carr lake in Oneida county, and for the establishment at that place of a restoration camp for sick and disabled veterans of World Wars I and II and their dependents, the said American Legion having already contracted to purchase said camp for such purposes. The ownership of all of the buildings and equipment of such camp shall revert to the state upon the discontinuance of the use thereof for such purposes. On or before January 15 of each year the said department of the American Legion shall file with the governor and the department of veterans affairs a written report of the operations and the financial status of such camp. Effective July 1, 1945 Camp Minnewawa shall be known as Camp American Legion.

(2) The written lease entered into between the Wisconsin state department of the American Legion and the department of natural resources dated June 15, 1944, which leases Camp American Legion for a period of 10 years commencing June 1, 1944, shall continue in full force for an additional 10 years, and may be renewed for additional 10-year periods thereafter, notwithstanding the expiration of the term expressed therein, so long as the Wisconsin state department of the American Legion or any of the American Legion posts organized under s.

188.08 maintains on such property structures which were constructed prior to May 31, 1956, at the expense of the Wisconsin state department of the American Legion or any such post, for the purpose of the rehabilitation, restoration or recreation of veterans and their dependents of the Spanish-American war, the Philippine insurrection, the Mexican border service, World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict.

History: 1971 c. 164.

45.42 Burial places compiled. (1) The department shall compile a record of the burial places within the state of persons who served in the U.S. armed forces in time of war as defined in s. 45.35 (5) (a) to (g), or under section 1 of executive order 10957, dated August 10, 1961, or whose service entitled them to receive either the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, or the Viet Nam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965. Such record, so far as practicable, shall indicate the name of each such person; the service in which he was engaged; the appropriate designation of his armed forces unit; the rank and period of service; the name and location of the cemetery or other place in which his body is interred; the location of the grave in such cemetery or other place; and the character of headstone or other marker, if any, at such grave.

(2) The department shall have blank forms prepared whereby the information required for such record may be transmitted to it and shall distribute such forms to county veterans service officers. The county veterans service officer within whose county and cemetery or burial place is located in which are interred the bodies of persons who served in the U. S. armed forces in time of war as defined in s. 45.35 (5) (a) to (g) or under section 1 of executive order 10957, dated August 10, 1961, or whose service entitled them to receive either the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, or the Viet Nam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, shall submit the facts required for such record to the department on the forms provided by it.

(3) The department shall make a careful inquiry and examination for the purpose of collecting and checking all the records required by this section.

45.43 County veterans' service officer.

(1) **ELECTION.** The county board shall elect a county veterans' service officer who shall be a Wisconsin resident who served under honorable conditions in the armed forces of the United

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States in time of war as set forth in s. 45.35 (5) (a) to (g).

(2) **TERM.** Upon his first election the county veterans' service officer shall serve until the first Monday in January of the 2nd year subsequent to the year of his election, and, if re-elected, shall continue to serve unless removed under s. 17.10

(2) All county veterans' service officers who have been re-elected prior to May 18, 1967 may continue to serve unless removed under s. 17.10 (2).

(3) **SALARY.** The salary of the county veterans' service officer shall be fixed by the county board prior to or at the time of his election and annually thereafter.

(4) **MILWAUKEE COUNTY.** In counties having a population of 500,000 or more such officer shall be appointed subject to ss. 63.01 to 63.17.

(5) **DUTIES.** The county veterans' service officer shall advise with veterans of all wars residing in the county who were engaged in the service of the United States, relative to any complaint or problem arising out of war service and shall render to them and their dependents all possible assistance. The county board shall provide him with office space, clerical assistance and such other needs as will enable him to perform his duties and may appoint such assistant county service officers as are necessary, who shall be honorably discharged veterans who served the United States in time of war. The service officer shall make such reports as the board may require.

(6) **CO-OPERATION.** The county veterans service officer shall co-operate with the several federal and state agencies which render services or grant aids or benefits to veterans and their dependents, and shall furnish information relative to the burial places within the state of persons, as required by s. 45.42 (2).

45.48 Veterans' papers, medals, etc., as security. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to receive or accept as a security or to withhold from a veteran or honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine any discharge paper, citation, warrant, medal, badge or evidence upon which such veteran is entitled to certain rights, as a veteran under the laws of the United States or of this state, and any transfer of the same during the life of the veteran upon a consideration or otherwise shall be null and void, and the refusal or wilful neglect of any person to return or deliver upon demand, any such discharge, citation, warrant, medal, badge or evidence aforesaid shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

(2) Any person who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

45.50 Reemployment in civil employment after completion of military service.

(1) Any person who has enlisted or enlists in or who has been or is inducted or ordered into active service in the armed forces of the United States pursuant to the selective training and service act of 1940 or the national guard and reserve officers mobilization act of 1940, the selective service act of 1948 and any acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto or P.L. 87-117, and any person whose services are requested by the federal government for national defense work as a civilian during a period officially proclaimed to be a national emergency or a limited national emergency, who, in order to perform such training or service, has left or leaves a position, other than a temporary position, in the employ of any political subdivision of the state or in the employ of any private or other employer, shall be restored to such position or to a position of like seniority, status, pay and salary advancement as though his service toward seniority, status, pay or salary advancement had not been interrupted by such absence; provided that (a) he presents to the employer evidence that he has satisfactorily completed his period of training or civilian service, or that he has been discharged from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable, (b) he is still qualified to perform the duties of such position, (c) he makes application for reemployment and resumes work within 90 days after he completed such training or services, military or civilian, or was so discharged from the armed forces, or within 6 months after release from hospitalization for service-connected injury or disease, (d) the employer's circumstances have not so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to so restore such person, and (e) the military service was not for more than 4 years unless extended by law. In the event of any dispute arising under this subsection the matter shall be referred to the department of industry, labor and human relations for determination except as such matters pertain to any classified employe of the state, in which case the matter shall be referred to the director of personnel. Orders and determinations of the department of industry, labor and human relations under this section may be reviewed in the manner provided in ch. 227.

(2) The service of any person who is or was restored to a position in accordance with sub. (1) shall be deemed not to be interrupted by such absence, except for the receipt of pay or other

compensation for the period of such absence and he shall be entitled to participate in insurance, pensions, retirement plans or other benefits offered by the employer pursuant to established rules and practices relating to employes on furlough or leave of absence in effect with the employer at the time such person entered or was enlisted, inducted or ordered into such forces and service, and shall not be discharged from such position without cause within one year after such restoration; and such discharge is subject to all federal or state law affecting any municipal or private employment; and subject to the provisions of contracts that may exist between employer and employe. Each county, town, city or village shall contribute or pay from September 16, 1940, all contributions of the employer to the applicable and existent pension, annuity or retirement system as though the service of any such employe had not been interrupted by such military service. In the case of teachers such payment shall be made as provided in ch. 42.

(3) In case any employer fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of subs. (1) and (2), any court of record whether created by general or special act in the proper county having jurisdiction of an action on contract for an amount exceeding \$500 may, upon the filing of a motion, petition or other appropriate pleading and on reasonable notice, which shall not be less than 10 days, to such employer by the person entitled to the benefits of such provisions, specifically require such employer to comply with such provisions, and, as an incident thereto, compensate such person for any loss of wages or benefits suffered by reason of such employer's unlawful action. The court shall order a speedy hearing in any such case and shall advance it on the calendar. No fees or court costs shall be taxed against the person so applying for such benefits. The place of the commencement of the action or proceeding hereunder against a private employer, and the trial or hearing thereof, shall be in any county in which the employment took place or in which such private employer maintains a place of business, and in all other cases shall be as provided in s. 261.01. No person who is appointed in the service of the state or of any county, city or village to fill the place of a person so entering the federal armed forces shall acquire permanent tenure during such period of replacement service.

(4) Any individual or employer aggrieved by the decision of the court provided in sub. (3) may appeal in accordance with the provisions of appealable orders referred to in ch. 274; and the employe need not file an appeal bond for the security for costs on said appeal.

(5) The restoration of classified employes of the state shall be governed by s. 16.26. The restoration of unclassified state employes shall be governed by this section.

History: 1971 c. 270 s. 104.

45.51 Employes or officers in military service. (1) The governing body of any county, town, city, village, school district or vocational, technical and adult education district may grant a leave of absence to any employe or officer who is inducted or who enlists in the U.S. armed forces for a period of military service of not more than 4 years unless such employe is involuntarily retained for a longer period. No salary or compensation of such employe or officer shall be paid, nor claim therefor exist during such leave of absence.

(2) The governing body may provide for safeguarding the reinstatement and pension rights, as herein limited, of any employe or officer so inducted or enlisted.

(3) No employe or officer who is appointed to fill the place of any employe or officer so inducted or enlisted shall acquire permanent tenure during such period of replacement service.

(4) If such leave of absence is or has been granted to an elected or appointed official or employe and he has begun his federal service, a temporary vacancy shall be deemed to exist and a successor may be appointed to fill the unexpired term of such official or employe, or until such official or employe returns and files his election to resume his office as hereinafter provided for if the date of such filing be prior to the expiration of such term. Such appointment shall be made in the manner provided for the filling of vacancies caused by death, resignation or otherwise, except that no election need be held to fill any part of such temporary vacancy. The appointee shall have all the powers, duties, liabilities and responsibilities and shall be paid and receive the compensation and other emoluments pertaining to the office or position, unless otherwise provided by the governing body. Within 40 days after the termination of such federal service such elected or appointed official or employe, upon filing with the clerk his statement under oath of such termination and that he elects to resume his office or position, may resume such office or position for the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed. The person temporarily filling the vacancy shall thereupon cease to hold the office.

(6) In cities of the 3rd class with a commission plan of government, in case of temporary or permanent vacancies in the office of mayor, the vice mayor shall temporarily succeed to the of-

office of mayor for the balance of his unexpired term for which he was elected unless sooner terminated as provided in s. 17.035 (3). The temporary or permanent vacancy thereby created in the office of councilman may thereupon be filled as provided in this section. The term of the person appointed temporarily to the office of councilman shall not extend beyond the expiration of the term of the office vacated and such temporary term shall be vacated sooner as provided for in s. 17.035 (3).

History: 1971 c. 154.

45.52 Physical disability of veterans not to disqualify for public employment, when.

An honorably discharged veteran of any war participated in by the United States who has suffered a physical disability as a direct result of his military or naval service during such war shall not on that account be barred from employment in any public position or employment whether under state, county or municipal civil service or otherwise, provided that the licensed physician making a physical examination of such veteran for the public employer shall certify that such applicant's disability will not materially handicap him in the performance of the duties of the position for which he is making application.

45.53 Soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act.

(1) In this section, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(a) "Persons in military service" means any man or woman who is or was serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.

(b) "Property" shall mean any real estate or personal property belonging to a person in military service provided that such property was acquired prior to the commencement of military service except in cases where such property was acquired by descent in which case the proviso shall not apply.

(c) "Taxes" shall mean any general taxes or special assessments or tax certificates evidencing such taxes and assessments not belonging to private buyers.

(d) "Interest and penalties" shall mean interest and penalties accruing on taxes during the period of military service and 6 months thereafter. In case property is owned jointly by several owners other than the spouse of the person in military service, interest and penalties shall mean the proportionate share of the total interest and penalties commensurate with the equity in the property of such person in military service.

(2) In order to supplement and complement the provisions of the soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act of 1940 and all amendments thereof, so as to afford and obtain greater peace and security for persons in military service, the enforcement of certain tax obligations or liabilities which may prejudice the property rights of persons in military service, for the period herein set forth may be temporarily suspended as hereinafter provided.

(3) Any person while in the military service of the United States or within 6 months after terminating such service, or his agent or attorney during such period, may petition a court of record in any county in which he owns property for relief under this section. Upon filing of such petition the court shall make an order fixing the time of hearing thereon and requiring the giving of such notice of the hearing as it may deem reasonable. If after hearing the court shall find that the person on whose behalf the petition is made is, or within 6 months next preceding the filing of such petition was, in the military service of the United States and owns property within the county on which taxes have fallen due or will fall due, and that his ability to pay such taxes has been materially adversely affected by reason of his being in military service, the court shall enter an order determining that such person is entitled to relief under this section. When an order shall so determine it may further suspend proceedings for the collection of taxes on such property for a period not exceeding 6 months after termination of the military service of the person on whose behalf the petition is made, or for such time as may reasonably be necessary to complete the agreement provided in sub. (7) and thereafter no sale of property or tax certificates to enforce collection of taxes on such property shall be made, all proceedings for that purpose shall be suspended, except under such terms as the court in such order may direct.

(4) Whenever any tax or assessment on real property including all special assessments shall not be paid when due, the penalty provisions providing for an eight-tenths of one per cent per month as provided by s. 74.03 (4) and the maximum limitation of 6% per annum as provided by such soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act shall be waived for the purpose hereof and upon the conditions specified hereinafter.

(5) The penalties and interest which shall be waived pursuant to this section are those for nonpayment of all taxes or assessments, general or special, falling due during the period of military service of any person against either real or personal property of which such person is the bona fide owner or in which he has a beneficial interest.

(6) The person owning or having an interest in any property in respect to which such order is made, his agent or attorney, may file with the county treasurer or with the city treasurer of cities authorized by law to sell lands for the nonpayment of taxes as to such taxes and assessments a certified copy of such order of suspension together with an affidavit in triplicate, sworn to by such person or his agent or attorney setting forth the name of the owner, the legal description of the property, the type of property, when acquired, volume and page number where such deed was duly recorded if acquired by deed and the name of the estate if acquired by descent, amount of delinquent taxes if any, and the names of the holders of any outstanding mortgage, lien or other encumbrance. Upon such filing the county treasurer or the city treasurer, as the case may be, shall file a first copy thereof in the office of the register of deeds of such county, the 2nd copy to be filed in the office of such treasurer, as the case may be, wherein there will be marked, in the tax sale record book or such other record books as he may maintain, proper notation to the effect that a person in military service is the holder of the legal title thereto and has made application for special relief as herein provided, and the 3rd copy shall be immediately forwarded to the office of the clerk of the town, city or village wherein the property is located, or if it be located in a city authorized to sell lands for nonpayment of its taxes to the tax commissioner thereof, who shall make an appropriate notation thereof on his records.

(7) Any person seeking relief under this section, within 6 months after termination of his military service, or his agent or attorney, or in case of death of such person, his personal representative, widow or heir at law, may apply to the county treasurer of the county, or the city treasurer of cities authorized by law to sell lands for the nonpayment of taxes, as the case may be, wherein such property is located for an agreement for scheduled instalment payments, covering the taxes accrued during such person's period of military service, provided that such taxes will be paid over a period of time equal to a period no longer than twice the length of military service of such person, in equal periodic instalments of not less than \$10, and subject to such other terms as may be just and reasonable.

(8) In the event default is made by the applicant in the performance of any of the provisions

of such agreement, such treasurer, as the case may be, shall forthwith notify the applicant of such default and the amount and date due, by written notice either served personally or by registered mail with return receipt demanded to the address set forth in such application. If such defaulted payment is not fully made within 10 days after service of such notice, then such treasurer without further notice may declare that the entire amount of such tax subject to the scheduled instalments shall be immediately due and payable and that such agreement is fully rescinded and terminated. Thereupon the county treasurer shall notify the register of deeds and the town, city or village treasurer thereof, or if the city treasurer of cities authorized by law to sell lands for the nonpayment of taxes the latter shall notify the register of deeds and the county treasurer and such officers and shall make appropriate notations thereof on their records. Thereafter, the county treasurer or city treasurer as to taxes of cities authorized by law to sell land for the nonpayment of taxes, may without further order of the court enforce the collection of such tax or assessment and sell such tax certificates together with such penalties and interest as may have accrued thereon from the date of default of such scheduled instalment payment.

45.60 Veterans memorial council. (1) **POLICY.** The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to perpetuate the memory and history of its veterans who served in the armed forces.

(2) **DUTIES.** The veterans memorial council may approve, recommend and veto any proposed plans, modifications and changes or policies with respect to established state memorials, including the Camp Randall memorial park, Madison, Wisconsin, as described in chapter 28, laws of 1913, and any future veterans state memorials; and recommend the creation and establishment of veterans state memorials.

(3) **RESTRICTIONS.** No structures other than the Camp Randall memorial building project shall be placed or erected upon said Camp Randall memorial park unless authorized by the legislature; nor shall said park be used for any purpose other than authorized in chapter 28, laws of 1913. If the Camp Randall memorial building is removed, the premises on which said building is located shall revert to Camp Randall memorial park.