
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 203

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1, as Amended by
Assembly Amendment 1 and
Assembly Amendment 3**

BACKGROUND

An applicant for a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card may request to have his or her veteran status indicated on the license or card.

In general, eligibility for the veteran status indication is confined to an applicant who has completed certain active duty service in the U.S. armed forces, including specified service under honorable conditions, has received an honorable discharge on the basis of disability or hardship, or has been released under honorable conditions due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces.

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 203

Assembly Bill 203 changes eligibility for the veteran status indication to the following applicants:

- A current member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the National Guard.
- A former member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the National Guard who received a discharge under honorable conditions.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1, AS AMENDED

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, as amended by both Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 3, changes eligibility for the veteran status indication to the following applicants:

- A former member of the U.S. armed forces who received a discharge under honorable conditions.
- A former member of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces or the National Guard who both: (1) met the requirements for satisfactory completion of the initial term of obligated service; and (2) received either an honorable discharge or a discharge under honorable conditions.¹
- A person who was admitted into this country as a refugee from Laos and who served with a special guerilla unit or irregular forces operating from Laos in support of the U.S. armed forces during the

¹ Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 would have required that a member of this group of applicants both: (1) qualify for the home loan program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and provide a certificate of eligibility for that program; and (2) have received a discharge under honorable conditions.

period from February 28, 1961, to September 18, 1978. A person applying for veteran status indication on this basis must provide documentation as specified in federal law.²

BILL HISTORY

Representative Sortwell and others introduced 2021 Assembly Bill 203 on March 25, 2021. Following a public hearing on the bill, Representative Sortwell introduced Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on May 6, 2021.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation introduced Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on May 19, 2021. On that same day, the committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, to recommend adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, as amended, and to recommend passage of Assembly Bill 203, as amended.

Representatives Sortwell and Murphy introduced Assembly Amendment 3 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on June 22, 2021. On that same day, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 3 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, as amended, and passed Assembly Bill 203, as amended, on voice votes.

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² Documentation may consists of: (1) original documents; (2) an affidavit of the person's superior officer; (3) two affidavits from other individuals who also were serving with a special guerilla unit or irregular forces and who personally knew of the person's service; or (4) other appropriate proof. [Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, P.L. 106-207, SEC. 4.]