
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Senate Bill 226

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1

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 SENATE BILL 226

Senate Bill 226 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.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 also modifies the definition of veteran for the purposes of eligibility to receive the veteran indicator on his or her driver's license or state identification card. Under the substitute amendment, a person is eligible to have his or her veteran status indicated on his or her driver's license or state identification card if he or she is either of the following:

- 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 received a discharge under honorable conditions and qualifies for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs home loan program.

The substitute amendment specifies that the bill initially applies to applications that are received by the Department of Transportation on the bill's effective date.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1 TO SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 replaces the substance of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 in full, except with respect to the substitute amendment's initial applicability provision. Under Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1, a person is eligible to have his or her veteran status indicated on his or her driver's license or state identification card if he or she is any of the following:

- 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.
- 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 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.¹

BILL HISTORY

Senator Jacque offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on May 1, 2021 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on June 25, 2021. On January 20, 2022, the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs and Constitution and Federalism voted to recommend adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 1, on votes of Ayes, 3; Noes, 1, and Ayes, 4; Noes, 0, respectively. The committee then voted to recommend passage of Senate Bill 226, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 0.

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¹ Documentation may consists of: (a) original documents; (b) an affidavit of the person's superior officer; (c) 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 (d) other appropriate proof. [Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, P.L. 106-207, SEC. 4.]