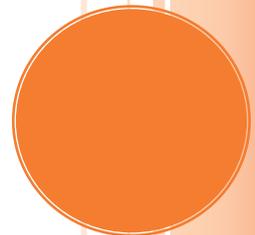


# WISCONSIN LEGISLATOR BRIEFING BOOK 2015-16

## CHAPTER 30 - VETERANS

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs provides a variety of benefits and services to eligible veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and, in some instances, their family members, as well as assistance in filing claims for federal veterans benefits. The Department of Veterans Affairs also operates three veterans homes, three veterans cemeteries, and a veterans museum.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) operates under the direction and supervision of a Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who is required to be a veteran. The Secretary is nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Prior to nominating the Secretary, the Governor must personally consult with the presiding officers of at least six Wisconsin veterans organizations. In addition to the position of Secretary, there is a nine-member Board of Veterans Affairs (the “Board”) that is comprised entirely of veterans. Board members are appointed by the Governor for staggered four-year terms and are subject to Senate confirmation. There must be a board member from each of the state’s eight Congressional districts.

The DVA Secretary is given the authority to promulgate rules and must provide a copy of any proposed rule to the Board for review. The Board may make written comments on the rule, which must be included in the rule analysis submitted by DVA.

The Council on Veterans Programs (“the Council”) is comprised of representatives of organizations that have a direct interest in veterans affairs. The Council advises the Board and DVA on solutions and policy alternatives relating to the problems of veterans. The Council and DVA, jointly or separately, are required to submit a biennial report to the Legislature, including a general summary of the activities and membership of the Council and each organization represented on the Council over the past two years.

Under state law, each county must have a county veterans service officer (CVSO) and provide the CVSO with office space and clerical assistance. The DVA provides grants to

**A link to a listing of all CVSOs and TVSOs is available at:**

<http://dva.state.wi.us/cvso>

counties for maintaining and operating CVSO offices. The primary duties of CVSOs are to advise veterans of state and federal benefits and services to which they may be entitled and assist them in applying for those benefits and services. CVSOs also may provide information to members

of the National Guard and Reserves and their families about benefits to which they may be entitled, necessary military points of contact, and general deployment information. A number of Wisconsin tribes and bands have tribal veterans service officers, known as TVSOs.

The DVA’s assistant deputy secretary is the agency’s chief legislative liaison and can provide assistance with constituent and legislative inquiries and direct people to other sources of information on veterans programs and services. In addition, DVA produces a biennial guide to all state veterans programs, benefits, and services, which may be accessed on the DVA website.

## STATE VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Wisconsin veterans are eligible for a number of benefits and services in addition to those provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S. DVA). State veterans programs

**DVA has a toll-free number for information about veterans benefits at: (800) WIS-VETS [(800) 947-8387].**

are available in such areas as housing, education, employment, health care, subsistence aid, and transportation. The following discussion provides an overview of major programs; more extensive information about these and other benefits and services is available on the DVA website.

### Eligibility Requirements

To receive state veterans benefits and services, a veteran must meet certain general eligibility requirements relating to military service and state residency which are set forth in state statutes. Family members of deceased or disabled veterans may also be eligible for certain benefits. Some veterans programs have additional requirements.

**Military service.** To fulfill the military service requirement for receipt of most veterans benefits, a person must have served for one of the statutorily specified periods of active duty

**Information on eligibility for specific state veterans programs, and applications, is available on the DVA website at: <http://www.dva.state.wi.us/benefits> or from the CVSO offices.**

(other than active duty for training purposes) under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated in the Armed Forces. These statutorily specified periods include peacetime service of the lesser of two years or initial term of enlistment. They also include service of 90 days during a war period as defined in Wisconsin Statutes. For example, the

Afghanistan War period commenced on September 11, 2001, and will continue until a date specified by the Department of Defense. Those who served honorably for 90 days during this time period meet the eligibility requirement.

**State residency.** With certain exceptions, to be eligible for benefits, a veteran must be a resident of Wisconsin and living in the state at the time of making an application. If a family member of a deceased veteran is applying for benefits, the veteran from whom the applicant derives eligibility must meet **one** of the following conditions:

- The veteran's selective service local board, if any, and home of record at the time of entering service (as shown on the separation-from-service or "DD-214" report) were in Wisconsin.
- The veteran was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into active duty.
- The veteran was a resident for any consecutive 12-month period after entry and before the date of application for benefits or death.

Veterans who are otherwise eligible and are serving on active duty do not have to be living in Wisconsin on the date of application to qualify for DVA benefits. If the DVA once determines that a veteran meets the 12-month residency requirement, the veteran never has to reestablish that he or she meets the residency requirement when applying for any other benefit that requires that residency. Certain programs require that the veteran have entered service from Wisconsin.

## Funding

The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) finances many programs and services for Wisconsin veterans including, for example, education grants, retraining grants, state veterans cemeteries, and others. In addition to funding these veterans programs and services, appropriations from the VTF are also used for the cost of salaries and fringe benefits, supplies, and services related to the administration of veterans programs. State taxpayers may contribute to the VTF by designating an amount on the Wisconsin individual or corporate income tax form.

## VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS

Wisconsin provides a number of education benefits for state veterans that are in addition to available federal benefits. The various programs have different eligibility criteria, including varying state residency requirements.

### Tuition Residency for Wisconsin Veterans

Wisconsin law provides that an eligible veteran who entered active duty from Wisconsin but who is nonetheless considered a nonresident for tuition purposes by the University of Wisconsin (UW) System is entitled to a 100% remission of nonresident tuition. The person must meet the definition of “veteran” in ch. 45, Stats., and be a resident of and living in Wisconsin at the time of registering at an institution. The remission of nonresident fees does not apply to Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) schools because eligible veterans in the WTCS are granted statutory residency status. 2013 Wisconsin Act 56 also gives veterans and members of the armed forces priority in registering for courses at UW System and technical colleges.

### Wisconsin GI Bill

The Wisconsin GI Bill provides a 100% waiver (“remission”) of tuition and fees for eligible veterans and their dependents for up to eight full-time semesters or 128 credits, whichever is longer, at any UW System or WTCS institution. The remission applies to both undergraduate and graduate level study.

**DVA information about the Wisconsin GI Bill and applications is available at:**  
[www.WisVets.com/Education](http://www.WisVets.com/Education)

The Wisconsin GI Bill applies to all degree credit courses, including distance education, online, cost recovery courses, and the UW-Madison Executive MBA program.

UW System has a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document concerning the Wisconsin GI Bill at: [http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/student/WI\\_GI\\_Bill\\_FAQs.htm?](http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/student/WI_GI_Bill_FAQs.htm?)

With some exceptions, veterans and qualifying dependents are required to exhaust federal GI Bill benefits prior to using the Wisconsin VetEd benefits. VetEd benefits may be reduced for courses commencing later than 10 years after separation from service.

**Remission for veterans.** To be eligible for the tuition remission, the veteran must be verified by DVA as being a Wisconsin resident for purposes of receiving state veterans benefits, as having been a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into the Armed Forces, and as meeting any one of a number of service-related conditions. An eligible veteran who entered the service as a Wisconsin resident but is nonetheless considered by the UW System to be a nonresident for tuition purposes is also eligible to receive 100% remission of the nonresident portion of the tuition. Beginning in the fall semester of 2013, residency was expanded to veterans who lived in Wisconsin for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the beginning of any school semester or session, even if they were not residents of Wisconsin at the time of entry. This newly expanded residency does not, however, extend to family member education benefits.

The veteran must submit both an application for GI Bill benefits to the educational institution and a form requesting certification of eligibility to the DVA. The DVA determines the eligibility of the veteran and notifies the institution of its determination. There is no time limit within which the benefit must be used and the veteran may attend school full-time or part-time.

**Remission for family members.** Spouses, unremarried surviving spouses, and children of veterans who entered service from Wisconsin may also receive the tuition remission if the veteran died in the line of duty while in active, National Guard, or Reserves service or received at least a 30% service-connected disability rating. These spouses and children must be resident students (interpreted as residents for tuition purposes) and may receive the remission only during the first 10 years following the veteran’s death or receipt of disability rating. For an unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who had a child with the veteran, the remission applies until 10 years after the youngest child that the spouse had with the eligible veteran reaches or would have reached 18 years of age, or during the first 10 years after the veteran died, whichever is longer. The child of an eligible veteran may receive the remission if the child is at least 17, but not yet 26, years of age.

## VetEd Tuition Reimbursement Program

The VetEd Program reimburses veterans for tuition and fees paid for courses taken as undergraduates at the UW System, the WTCS, or private higher education institutions. The maximum number of credits for which a veteran may receive reimbursement is based on the amount of time the veteran served on active duty. The maximum reimbursement cannot exceed what the UW-Madison charges for the same number of credits.

VetEd reimbursement will be reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have already been paid by other grants, scholarships, and remissions, including the Wisconsin GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Veterans may apply for VetEd through their CVSO or online at the DVA website.

## Federal Post 9/11 GI Bill

**Information about the Federal Post 9/11 GI Bill is available at:**  
[www.WisVets.com/Education](http://www.WisVets.com/Education)

The Post 9/11 GI Bill took effect on August 1, 2009. It provides funding for up to 36 months (four academic years) of tuition, books, and living expenses without contributions from the individual while in service, for veterans who served after September 11, 2001. For some

qualifying veterans, this benefit can be transferred to a spouse or child. Qualification for transfer can be subject to conditions relating to being in the service on the eligibility date and continued service after that date, as well as other conditions. Veterans and their qualifying dependents must use the Federal GI Bill and any other federal benefits to which they are entitled, prior to using the Wisconsin GI Bill.

## VETERANS LOAN PROGRAMS

Effective December 1, 2011, the DVA has enacted an indefinite moratorium on its loan programs. Information on these programs is included in this chapter as there are a number of these loans outstanding, but the department is no longer accepting new applicants. The DVA is referring those veterans needing assistance with home loans to the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Advantage Program, which can be found at:

**Please note that the department is not currently issuing new loans under this program.**

<http://www.wheda.com/root/BusinessPartners/MortgageLenders/Dynamic.aspx?id=2214>.

Ordinarily for first-time home buyers only, this restriction is waived for veterans.

## Housing and Home Improvement Loans

### Veterans Primary Housing Loan Program

The Veterans Primary Housing Loan Program provided fixed-rate mortgage loans to qualifying state veterans to purchase or construct a home. Members of the National Guard and Reserves who had served for six consecutive years and who were living in the state at the time of application were also eligible for the program. The DVA is the program lender, with funding for loans coming from the proceeds of state bond issuances. The state program is separate from the federal Home Loan Program administered by the U.S. DVA. Veterans were required to make a down payment on the home of at least 5%, unless the

veteran was totally and permanently disabled. There was no private mortgage insurance requirement. The loan principal amount was limited to 2-1/2 times the median sales price of a Wisconsin home. The outstanding loans are secured with a mortgage on the properties and the homes must be the veteran's primary or secondary residence (primary in the case of two- to four-unit residences).

### Home Improvement Loan Program

Under the Home Improvement Loan Program, veterans could borrow up to 90% of their home's equity for additions, construction of a garage, repairs, and remodeling.

### Personal Loan Program

The Personal Loan Program provided multi-purpose, low-interest loans of up to \$25,000 to eligible veterans or the unremarried surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran. In some cases, a remarried spouse or parent of a veteran's child could have been eligible for a loan to pay for the education of the veteran's children.

## VETERANS GRANT PROGRAMS

DVA administers a number of grant programs for veterans and veterans organizations.

### Retraining Grant Program

Under this program, veterans who are underemployed or recently unemployed may apply for up to \$3,000 a year for up to two years if they demonstrate financial need while enrolled in a training program that is expected to lead to employment. The DVA may pay a retraining grant directly to the veteran's employer if the veteran is in a structured on-the-job training program.

### Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant Program

This program provides limited financial emergency assistance to financially needy veterans or their dependents who have exhausted all other sources of aid. The grants may be used for specified health care or subsistence needs or for economic emergency assistance for spouses and dependents of activated or deployed service members. There is a cumulative lifetime grant award limit of \$7,500.

### CVSO Grant Program

The DVA provides grants to counties for maintaining and operating a CVSO and improving service to former military personnel. A county's grant is based on whether the county veterans service officer is full-time or part-time and the county's total population.

### Grants to Nonprofit Organizations

2013 Wisconsin Act 190 created a new grant program administered by the DVA. Under the program, the DVA may award up to a total of \$250,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations

that provide financial assistance or other services to veterans and their families. The maximum amount that may be granted to a nonprofit organization per fiscal year is \$25,000.

## OTHER VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Veterans and Surviving Spouse Property Tax Credit

Wisconsin law provides a property tax credit to veterans with a 100% disability or their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of service members who died while on active duty. The credit is equal to the amount of property taxes paid during the year on a principal dwelling.

A FAQs document on this tax credit is available on the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) website at: <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/faqs/ise/vetprop.html>

A veteran must be at least 65 years of age and meet all of the following conditions to qualify for the tax credit:

- Served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into active service or was a resident of Wisconsin for any consecutive five-year period after entry into that service.
- Is currently a resident of Wisconsin for purposes of receiving veterans benefits under ch. 45, Stats.
- Either has a service-connected disability rating of 100% from the U.S. DVA or is considered individually unemployable and is rated 100% disabled on that basis.

To qualify for the tax credit as a surviving spouse, a person must be the unremarried surviving spouse of **one** of the following, as verified by the DVA:

Forms are available on the DVA website ([www.WisVets.com/forms](http://www.WisVets.com/forms)), from the DOR ([www.dor.state.wi.us](http://www.dor.state.wi.us)), or by calling the DVA toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387). See DVA 10106, the application/instructions booklet, on the DVA website ([www.WisVets.com/taxes](http://www.WisVets.com/taxes)).

- A veteran who met all of the above conditions.
- An individual who died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty for training purposes as a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces and who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that service or who had been a resident of Wisconsin for any consecutive five-year period after entry into that service, and died in the line of duty as a Wisconsin resident.

## Assistance With Filing U.S. DVA Claims

**The claims assistance office may be reached at (414) 902-5757.**

The DVA maintains a claims assistance office at the U.S. DVA Regional Office in Milwaukee and develops and files all federal disability and pension claims for veterans in Milwaukee County, in addition to assisting the county

veterans services officers in most other counties in developing those claims.

## Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Outreach and Referral Services

DVA is required to provide services related to PTSD to service members and veterans, including at least one of the following: (1) outreach services to service members and veterans who may be experiencing PTSD; or (2) information on the availability of PTSD medical services and referrals to those services. The DVA works with the UW System and provides grants to the Center for Veterans Issues, in Milwaukee, to fulfill this requirement.

## Veterans Assistance Program

The Veterans Assistance Program helps homeless veterans and those at risk for becoming homeless receive job training, education, counseling, and rehabilitative services (such as alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) counseling) in order to become employed, find affordable housing, and develop living skills. Regional veterans assistance centers (VACs) or “homeless transition sites” have been established to provide “one-stop shopping” for services for homeless and at-risk veterans. The VACs are located at the veterans homes at King and Union Grove, at Fort McCoy, and in the Oak Grove building on the campus of the Northern Wisconsin Center at Chippewa Falls. Funds for the sites come from the DVA and the U.S. DVA. The program also provides funds for the Center for Veterans Issues in Milwaukee for outreach services to homeless veterans with PTSD.

Veterans with a characterization of service other than a dishonorable discharge are eligible to participate in the program and there is no state residency requirement for the program. The program assists veterans’ families to obtain housing, but cannot feed or house a veteran’s spouse (unless also a veteran) or children.

## Employment and Training Services

### Vow to Hire Heroes Act

The federal Vow to Hire Heroes Act created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), which offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to qualified unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60. To be eligible, a veteran must not be eligible for any other VA education benefit programs, not be in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability and not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

## Military Training Credit for Credentialing

2011 Wisconsin Act 120 provided for consideration of equivalent military training in satisfying credentialing requirements for licenses and affiliated credentials administered by state agencies such as the Department of Safety and Professional Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health Services, the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning, and the Department of Transportation.

## Employment Assistance

The DVA provides a wide array of employment and training services for veterans, including transition assistance to veterans leaving active service, job placement, coordinating approvals for training courses, entrepreneurial training, recruiting veterans to return to Wisconsin following military service, and reducing barriers to licensure necessary for employment. Also, the Office of Veterans Services in the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) provides an employment service placement program and a job training placement service program for veterans through 22 Wisconsin job centers and 65 additional outreach locations, including correctional facilities and CVSOs.

The DVA also works with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program in providing resources for employers on the benefits of hiring veterans.

## Veteran Employment Grants

2013 Wisconsin Act 20 created a grant program for employers hiring disabled veterans. The veteran must have a service-connected disability rating of at least 50%. The grants can be for as much as \$4,000 in the year of hire and \$2,000 per year for the next three years of employment.

## Military Funeral Honors Program

The DVA administers the Military Funeral Honors Program to honor veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves with assistance from veterans

**For information about military funeral honors, call: (877) 944-6667 or (608) 261-0510.**

service organizations (VSOs) and active and reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces. The VSOs may be reimbursed up to \$50 for providing honor guard details at a veteran's funeral. The Adjutant General of the Wisconsin

National Guard may activate Guard members to provide military funeral honors.

Depending on availability of personnel, various types of honors may be rendered, including firing rifle volleys, sounding Taps, and folding the flag for presentation to the veteran's next-of-kin.

## Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits

The DVA periodically sponsors “supermarkets” of veterans benefits in various communities around the state, at which representatives of local, state, federal, and nonprofit agencies come to a central location to provide one-stop shopping for veterans needing information and assistance concerning benefits, programs, or services. At this central location, veterans may, among other things, establish their eligibility for state veterans benefits, apply for a range of benefits, loans, and grants, receive a health screening and enroll in the federal veterans health care program, and obtain assistance in obtaining military medals and records.

**Information about the Mission: Welcome Home Program is available on the DVA website or via email to: [MWH@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:MWH@dva.state.wi.us)**

### Mission: Welcome Home Program

The DVA administers the Mission: Welcome Home Program to help returning veterans transition back to everyday life. The program provides information about and access to federal and state veterans benefits and outreach and assistance to veterans and their families.

**The DVA has hired a coordinator for veterans services for women. The coordinator may be contacted at: [WomenVets@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:WomenVets@dva.state.wi.us)**

## STATE VETERANS FACILITIES

### Veterans Homes

There are currently three veterans homes in Wisconsin, located in King in Waupaca County, Union Grove in Racine County, and Chippewa Falls in Chippewa County. Wisconsin veterans are eligible to become residents of a veterans home if they have served on active duty for two or more years or the full period of their initial service obligation, whichever is less. They are also eligible if they served on active duty for at least 90 days, one day of which must be within a wartime period. Spouses of eligible veterans may also live at the home.

An applicant must be a state resident on the date of admission to the home and must have been a state resident either upon entering the service or for any 12-month period after enlistment and before the date of application. The veteran must also be permanently incapacitated due to physical disability or age.

The Veterans Home at King provides residential care, nursing and medical services, food services, and social and counseling services to its resident veterans and eligible dependents. There are currently four licensed skilled nursing care buildings, 14 cottages for married couples who are able to care for themselves, and other support facilities. 2013 Wisconsin Act 187 added to the 2013-15 Authorized State Building Program a project involving the construction of the John R. Moses Skilled Nursing Facility at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. The project is planned to be funded with \$52 million in program revenue-supported borrowing and \$28 million in general fund-supported borrowing.

The Veterans Home at Union Grove has two community-based residential facilities for veterans and their spouses who require limited nursing care, a residential care apartment complex, a skilled nursing care facility, and a campus activities center.

**In August 2010, the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released a letter report, *Rate Setting at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes*, available at:**

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>

**In February 2011, the LAB released a report, *Wisconsin Veterans Homes*, available at:**

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>

The Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls is a 72-bed skilled nursing facility. It has two neighborhoods, each having two 18-bed households.

## Veterans Cemeteries

There are three state-run veterans cemeteries in Wisconsin (in addition to the Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, which reached capacity in 1996): the Central Wisconsin Veterans

Memorial Cemetery at King, the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Union Grove, and the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spooner.

Veterans who meet specified requirements are eligible for burial at a Wisconsin veterans cemetery. A veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty under any conditions other than dishonorable or must have died while on active duty. In addition, the veteran must either have entered military service from Wisconsin, have been a resident of Wisconsin at death, or have entered military service from another state but been a Wisconsin resident at some point for at least 12 consecutive months after entering service.

A person who was a Wisconsin resident at the time of death and served at least 20 years in the National Guard or Reserves and qualified for retirement pay (or would have qualified had death not occurred before age 60) is also eligible for burial at a Wisconsin veterans cemetery. Veterans and their spouses may preregister for burial at one of the three state cemeteries on a form available on the DVA website or from a CVSO or the cemetery.

Currently, no fee is charged for burial of an eligible veteran, but a fee is charged for family members. DVA may assess funeral directors involved in interments the amount necessary to reimburse DVA for the average cost of providing specified services and items.

## State Veterans Museum

The DVA operates the Wisconsin Veterans Museum on the Capitol Square in Madison. The Museum's mission is to acknowledge, commemorate, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in the United States' military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs. In addition to state funding, the private, nonprofit Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation contributes funds to the museum.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

1. The Wisconsin DVA website: <http://dva.state.wi.us/default.asp>.
2. The U.S. DVA website: <http://www.va.gov/>.
3. A list of CVSOs can be found at: <http://dva.state.wi.us/CVSO.asp>.
4. Information on education benefits can be found on the UW System website at: <http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/veterans.aspx>.
5. Information on the Wisconsin GI Bill can be found on the UW System website at: <http://gibill.wisconsin.edu/>.
6. Information on the Federal Post-9/11 GI Bill can be found at: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/index.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/index.html).
7. A fact sheet on transferring Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent can be found at: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Transferability\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Transferability_Factsheet.pdf).
8. Additional information on the VOW to Hire Heroes Act is available at: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/docs/VOW\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/docs/VOW_Factsheet.pdf).
9. Additional information regarding the application of military education, training, or experience to professional credential requirements can be found at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/lcactmemo/sb357.pdf>.
10. Additional information on an income and franchise tax credit for hiring unemployed disabled veterans can be found at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/lcactmemo/sb369.pdf>.
11. At the beginning of each biennial legislative session, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau publishes Informational Papers on various state programs, including programs for veterans. These Informational Papers are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>.

## GLOSSARY

**CVSO:** County Veterans Service Officer.

**DD-214:** Department of Defense Form 214, or “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.” One of the most commonly used documents by veterans to support a determination of eligibility for benefits.

**DVA:** Department of Veterans Affairs (in this document, refers to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs).

**Post-9/11 GI Bill:** Federal program providing education benefits to veterans who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001. Largely replaced the Montgomery GI Bill, though veterans entitled to Montgomery GI Bill benefits in some cases can choose between the two.

**PMI:** Private Mortgage Insurance. This insurance is typically required by the lender and paid by the borrower on mortgages obtained with less than 20% down.

**PTSD:** Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Veteran with service-connected disability:** A veteran who has an illness or injury incurred in or aggravated by military service as determined by the U.S. DVA.

**TVSO:** Tribal Veterans Service Office.

**U.S. DVA:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Veterans Trust Fund (VTF):** A fund designed to provide services to veterans including assistance for employment, housing, health care, education, and transportation.

**VRAP:** Veterans Retraining Assistance Program. A program created under the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 offering 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans who are at least 35 years old but no older than 60.

**WI GI Bill:** Tuition remission program established in Wisconsin Statutes providing tuition remission for Wisconsin Veterans.

**WTCS:** Wisconsin Technical College System.

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