

Military/Veterans Bills

UPDATED 11/15/19

- [Assembly Bill 79](#), relating to issuance of conservation patron licenses to certain veterans with disabilities
 - **STATUS: PASSED THRU SENATE COMMITTEE, IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE PROCESS**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill requires that a veteran who is a state resident be issued a conservation patron license at a lower fee than the regular license fee if he or she produces evidence showing that he or she has a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or is receiving disability benefits from the VA due to being unemployable based on his or her education and skills as well as his or her medical condition.

- [Assembly Bill 80](#), relating to indication of veteran status on an operator's license or identification card
 - **STATUS: IN COMMITTEE PROCESS**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill creates a definition of "veteran" that includes any current or former member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the national guard for the purpose of enabling such a person to indicate on his or her operator's license or identification card that he or she is a veteran.

- [Assembly Bill 88](#), relating to reducing the eligibility threshold to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit
 - **STATUS: IN COMMITTEE PROCESS**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill reduces the eligibility threshold for an eligible veteran, the spouse of an eligible veteran, and the unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran (claimants) to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit under the individual income tax system. Under the bill, a claimant may claim the credit if the claimant's service-connected disability rating is at least 70 percent. Currently, that rating must be 100 percent. Under the bill, the maximum credit that a claimant may claim is multiplied by the percentage of the claimant's service-connected disability rating. The bill does not affect a claimant who claims the credit based on his or her individual unemployability rating.

- [Assembly Bill 102](#), relating to exclusion of certain military allowances in determining gross income for purposes of child support

- **STATUS: PASSED THRU COMMITTEES**
- **SUMMARY:** This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on Child Placement and Support. Currently, the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) administrative code defines gross income for the purposes of calculating child support to include military allowances and veterans disability compensation benefits. This bill amends the DCF administrative code to specify that gross income includes veterans disability compensation benefits and military basic allowances for subsistence and housing, but does not include variable housing costs
- [Assembly Bill 131](#), relating to the veterans outreach and recovery program and making an appropriation
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill requires DVA to administer a program to provide outreach, mental health services, and support to certain individuals who are serving or who have served in the armed forces, who reside in Wisconsin, and who may have a mental health condition or substance use disorder. The bill provides \$1,296,400 in each year of the 2019-21 fiscal biennium for this purpose
- [Assembly Bill 133](#), relating to creating an individual income tax exemption for military income received by certain members of the U.S. armed forces and sunseting the armed forces
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018, this bill exempts from taxation all military income received from the federal government each year by an individual who is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Current law exempts from income taxation all military income received from the federal government by a member of a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces who is called into active federal service or special state service, for the period of time during which the member is on active duty. Under current law, the armed forces member tax credit allows an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces to claim a nonrefundable individual income tax credit of up to \$300 in military income received each year from the federal government for services performed while the claimant is stationed outside of the United States. Because the credit is nonrefundable, no amount will be paid to the claimant by check if the credit he or she is due exceeds his or her tax liability. Under this bill, no new claims may be made for the credit for taxable years that begin after December 31, 2018.

- [Assembly Bill 150](#), relating to care of the graves of veterans and making an appropriation
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse cities, villages, and towns for costs incurred in the care of veterans' graves, subject to the following limitations: 1. A city, village, or town may not receive more than \$5 per grave per year. 2. All cities, villages, and towns located in the same county may not receive more than a total of \$10,000 under the bill per year.

- [Assembly Bill 161](#), relating to late payment of tuition benefits for student veterans enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college
 - **STATUS: PASSED THRU ASSEMBLY & SENATE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill prohibits any University of Wisconsin System school or technical college from taking adverse action against a student veteran whose financial aid package includes federal veterans tuition benefits as a result of the UW school's or technical college's failure to receive payment of these benefits by the tuition deadline.

- [Assembly Bill 164](#), relating to creditable military service under the Wisconsin Retirement System
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill modifies the conditions under which a Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) participant may receive creditable service under the WRS for military service. Under current law, a participating employee in the WRS may receive one year of creditable service under the WRS for each year of military service, up to a maximum of four years of military service credit, at the time of retirement in either of the following ways: 1. If the participant left employment covered under the WRS to enter military service and returned to the same employer within 180 days after being discharged, the participant may receive one year of military service credit for each year of military service. 2. If the participant's military service was performed before 1974, the participant may receive up to one, two, three, or four years of military service credit if the participant has at least five, ten, fifteen, or twenty years, respectively, of creditable service (not counting previously granted military service credit). This bill provides that a participating employee in the WRS who was an employee of the Department of Corrections for at least five years and who terminates covered service on or after the effective date of the bill may receive creditable military service for active military service performed at any time. The

requirements and standards of item 2. apply to such a grant of creditable military service. The bill provides that, for the purposes of item 2., the participant may receive military service credits under the WRS for military service that is also used for the purpose of establishing entitlement to a retirement benefit that is paid by the federal government. The bill provides that, for the purpose of item 1., the participant need not return to employment with the same WRS employer, but may return to employment with any WRS employer. The bill requires that DOC make additional contributions as determined by the actuary and agreed to by the Employee Trust Funds Board to cover the costs of granting the additional military service credits authorized under the bill

- [Assembly Bill 218](#), relating to fee remission for certain veterans enrolled in University of Wisconsin System institutions or technical colleges
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill expands the fee remission program for certain veterans enrolled in University of Wisconsin System schools or technical colleges to include fee remission for nondegree courses. Under current law, veterans who meet certain criteria are eligible for full remission of resident student academic fees or nonresident student tuition at UW System schools, and of fees at technical colleges, for up to eight semesters or 128 credits, whichever is longer. For purposes of this fee remission for UW resident students, “academic fees” means the amount charged to a resident student to enroll in a degree credit course, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison Executive MBA Program. For purposes of this fee remission for technical college students, “fees” means the amount charged to a resident student to enroll in a course leading to an associate degree, collegiate transfer, or vocational diploma. This bill expands the definition of “academic fees” for purposes of this fee remission for UW resident students to include the amount charged to a resident student to enroll in a noncredit course or certificate program, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison Certified Public Manager Program. The bill also expands the definition of “fees” for purposes of the fee remission for technical college students to include the amount charged to a resident student to enroll in a noncredit course.

- [Assembly Bill 230](#), relating to transferring academic credits from military transcripts to University of Wisconsin System schools and technical colleges
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

- **SUMMARY:** This bill allows a student enrolled in a University of Wisconsin System school or technical college who served in the military to object to the transfer of academic credit from the student's military transcript to the UW System school or technical college. Current law requires the Board of Regents of the UW System to establish policies for transferring credits between UW System schools and to enter into an agreement for the transfer of certain credits between UW System schools and technical colleges. Current law also allows the Board of Regents to establish policies for credit transfers with other educational institutions. Also under current law, each UW System school and technical college must, upon receiving from the federal Department of Defense a student's official joint services transcript or Community College of the Air Force transcript, do the following: 1) accept all American Council on Education credit recommendations included in the official joint services transcript and award academic credit to the student in accordance with these recommendations; and 2) accept all credits included in the CCAF transcript and award academic credit to the student accordingly
- [Assembly Bill 341](#), relating to grace period for late rent payments by tenants receiving military housing allowances
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under current law, if a tenant is late in paying rent, the landlord may give the tenant a notice that requires the tenant to pay rent or vacate within at least five days after the notice is given (a five-day notice). If the tenant fails to pay the rent by that date, the tenancy is terminated. Under the bill, if a landlord gives a tenant a five-day notice for failure to pay rent, the tenancy does not terminate if: 1) the tenant receives a housing allowance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and notified the landlord of this fact at the time of starting the tenancy or entering into the lease; 2) within five days after the landlord gives the five-day notice, the tenant provides the landlord with documentation showing that issuance of the tenant's current housing allowance is delayed; and 3) the tenant pays the delinquent rent payment within 30 days after the landlord gives the five-day notice. Under current law, a landlord is not required to give a five-day notice to a month-to-month tenant who is late in paying rent, but may instead give the month-to-month tenant a notice requiring the tenant to vacate within at least 14 days after the notice is given (a 14-day notice), without the option to cure by paying rent. For a year-to-year tenant or a tenant under a lease for a term of one year or less, if the landlord has previously given the tenant a five-day notice for failure to pay rent and, within one year, the tenant is again late in paying rent, the landlord may give the tenant a 14-day

notice to vacate. Under the bill, if a landlord gives a month-to-month tenant a 14-day notice to vacate, the tenancy does not terminate if the three requirements listed above are met, and if the tenant has not received a five-day or 14-day notice for failure to pay rent in the previous 12 months. The bill does not affect a landlord's ability to give a 14-day notice to a year-to-year tenant or a tenant under a lease for a term of one year or less who has received a five-day notice in the previous year. The bill also prohibits a landlord from charging a late fee if all of the applicable requirements described above have been met.

- [Assembly Bill 361](#), relating to: requirements for colleges when service member students are called into active duty.
 - **STATUS: PASSED THRU COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill makes changes relating to the responsibilities of colleges to national guard members and other service members who withdraw from school because they are called into active military service. Current law provides certain protections to a student of a University of Wisconsin System school, technical college, or private nonprofit college who is a national guard member or a member of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces and who withdraws from school because he or she is called into active military service for at least 30 days. Under these protections, the school or college must re-enroll the student in the semester in which the student is discharged, demobilized, or deactivated or, if the student prefers, in the following semester and give the student the same course registration priority that the student would have had if the student had registered at the beginning of the registration period. In addition, if the student is enrolled in a UW System school or technical college, at the student's request, the school or college must either 1) reimburse all tuition and fees paid for courses from which the student had to withdraw, and for prorated room and board at a UW System school or 2) grant the student an incomplete in the courses from which the student had to withdraw and allow the student to complete the courses within six months after leaving service without paying additional tuition or fees. If the student is enrolled in a private nonprofit college, the college must grant the student an incomplete and allow course completion as described in 2, above. This bill affords these protections to students called into active military service for any period, not just for 30 days or more. The bill also expands these protections to students at all private institutions, not only nonprofit institutions, and provides these students with the option, instead of receiving an incomplete and completing courses later, to obtain reimbursement of tuition and fees paid for courses from which the student had to withdraw and of prorated room and board. The bill also requires schools and colleges, under

specified circumstances, to ensure that students called into active military service are provided a reasonable opportunity to complete final projects and final examinations.

- [Senate Bill 446](#), relating to the University of Wisconsin Missing-In-Action Recovery and Identification Project and making an appropriation
 - **STATUS: PASSED THRU ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE, IN SENATE COMMITTEE PROCESS**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under this bill, the University of Wisconsin Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Project (MIA Recovery Project) may request the Joint Committee on Finance to provide \$180,000 in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 fiscal biennium for missions to recover and identify Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action. The request must include a research prospectus and spending plan for the mission for which the funding is requested and must be concurrently provided to the standing committees of each house of the legislature dealing with veterans matters (veterans committees), as well as the governor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Military Affairs. The veterans committees may submit to JCF a written recommendation regarding the request. JCF considers the request under a 14-day passive review process and, upon JCF's express or implied approval of the request, JCF must provide the requested amount of funding directed to the MIA Recovery Project Fund. At the conclusion of the mission for which funding was provided, the MIA Recovery Project must submit to JCF, each veterans committee, the governor, DVA, and DMA a report on the mission's findings and an accounting of expenditures for the mission. The bill also creates a miscellaneous appropriation of general purpose revenue through which JCF provides the funding.

- [Assembly Bill 471](#), relating to grants for Next Generation 911 and granting rule-making authority
 - **STATUS: PASSED THRU ASSEMBLY, IN SENATE COMMITTEE PROCESS**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under this bill, the Department of Military Affairs must provide grants to Wisconsin public safety answering points to purchase, upgrade, and maintain Next Generation 911 equipment. Under the bill, the 911 subcommittee must advise DMA on appropriate grant purposes and eligibility criteria for the grants, and DMA must promulgate rules for grant use purposes and eligibility based on those recommendations.

- [Assembly Bill 583](#)- MCW military medical training
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO HEALTH COMMITTEE**

- **SUMMARY:** Under this bill, physician assistants who perform official duties for the armed services or federal health services are not required to obtain a physician assistant license. Current law generally requires a person to obtain a license granted by the Medical Examining Board to practice as a physician assistant. The bill also allows a person to practice as a registered nurse or nurse anesthetist while performing official duties for the armed services or federal health services without obtaining a credential from the Board of Nursing. Under current law, a person is generally required to obtain a credential from the Board of Nursing to practice professional nursing or to practice as a nurse anesthetist.
- [Senate Bill 540](#)- relating to payments to certain state veterans organizations
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs may make payments to certain state veterans organizations who apply for funding. The amount payable is equal to 50 percent of all salaries and travel expenses of the employees of the organization who are engaged in veterans claims service activities during the funding application period or \$100,000, whichever is less. Under this bill, the funding limit is increased from \$100,000 to \$175,000.
- [Senate Bill 537](#)- relating to: veteran-related tuition grants for certain veterans and dependents enrolled in private nonprofit institutions of higher education and making an appropriation
 - **STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill requires the Higher Educational Aids Board to make veteran-related grants for students enrolled in bachelor's or graduate degree programs at private nonprofit institutions that are members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The grants are made for students who would have qualified for veteran-related tuition remissions if they had enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college. Subject to certain residency requirements, those students consist of veterans, as well as spouses, unremarried surviving spouses, and, subject to age limits, children of veterans with service-related disabilities or veterans who died in the line of duty or as the result of service-related disabilities. Like the UW System and technical college remissions, the Department of Veteran Affairs is required to verify veteran status. Before making a grant for a student for a semester or session, HEAB must require the student to apply to the payment of tuition all the educational assistance to which the student is entitled under specified federal veteran educational assistance programs. The same requirement applies under current law for the UW System and technical college remissions. The bill limits

the grants for an individual student for a period of no more than 128 credits or eight semesters or sessions, whichever is longer. However, if a student previously received veteran-related tuition remissions from the UW System or a technical college, that limit is reduced by the number of credits, semesters, or sessions for which the student received the tuition remissions. The bill also requires a student to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 in order to qualify for the grants. The amount of a grant for a student for a semester or session must equal the lesser of \$2,000 or 50 percent of the difference between the amount of tuition charged by the private nonprofit institution and the amount of tuition paid for the student under specified federal veteran educational assistance programs. The bill requires HEAB to make the grants to a student's private nonprofit institution to offset the tuition charged by the institution. If HEAB makes a grant under the bill, the student's institution must match the amount of the grant to offset the tuition charged to the student.

- LRB 3658/3, Stuck, Stubbs, Shilling; relating to: expanding veterans benefits to individuals who served in Laos in support of the United States during the Vietnam War
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill expands the definition of “veteran” to include individuals who were naturalized pursuant to the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 or individuals who the secretary of Veterans Affairs has determined serve honorably with a special guerrilla unit or irregular forces operating from a base in Laos in support of the armed forces of the United States at any time during the period from February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, and who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States who reside in Wisconsin. The bill extends most veterans benefits to anyone who meets this newly expanded definition of veteran, however, admission to a state veterans home and burial in a veterans cemetery are not included benefits as they are subject to federal regulation.

- LRB 1492, Jacque, The Disabled Veteran Sporting Opportunities Act – relating to the disability rating at which veterans qualify for certain hunting and fishing authorizations and exemptions from state park and trail admission fees.
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill modifies the disability rating required for a disabled veteran to qualify for certain authorizations issued by the Department of Natural Resources and for exemptions from certain admission fees. Under current law, the qualifying disability rating is either 50 or 70 percent depending on the authorization or exemption. The bill provides for a qualifying disability rating of

30 percent for these authorizations and exemptions. Under current law generally, a person may not operate a vehicle in a state forest, state park, or state natural area unless the vehicle has a valid vehicle admission receipt properly displayed. Current law also authorizes DNR to charge a fee to enter a state trail. Current law provides that vehicle admission receipts and state trail passes are not required for a state resident who is a veteran and is receiving compensation benefits for disabilities that result in a disability rating that is 70 percent or greater. Under current law, if the number of applicants for wild turkey hunting tags for a given wild turkey hunting zone or season time period exceeds the number of available wild turkey hunting tags allocated by DNR for that zone or time period, DNR must issue wild turkey hunting licenses and tags for that zone or time period according to a cumulative preference system. However, DNR must issue wild turkey hunting licenses and tags to a state resident who is a veteran and is receiving compensation benefits for disabilities that result in a disability rating that is 50 percent or greater without requiring the licenses and tags to be issued according to the cumulative preference system. Under current law, upon application from a state resident who is a veteran and is receiving compensation benefits for disabilities that result in a disability rating that is 70 percent or greater, DNR must issue the veteran an annual disabled person fishing license. Under current law, upon application from a state resident who is a veteran and is receiving compensation benefits for disabilities that result in a disability rating that is 50 percent or greater, DNR must issue the veteran a disabled veteran recreation card. The card entitles the holder to exercise all of the combined rights and privileges of a resident small game hunting license and a resident fishing license. The card also serves as a vehicle admission receipt and a state trail pass. The bill reduces the qualifying disability rating for each of these authorizations and exemptions to 30 percent.

- LRB 4587, Jacque, The Deployed with Dependent Act– relating to legal custody and physical placement factors for a child of a service member
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under current law, in determining the legal custody of a child, a court may not consider whether a service member has been or may be called into active duty and consequently is or may be absent from his or her home. Under current law, “service member” is defined as a member of the national guard or a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces. Under this bill, “service member,” for the purposes of determining legal custody and physical placement of a child, means a member of the national guard, the U.S. armed forces or forces incorporated in the U.S. armed forces, or a reserve unit of the U.S. armed

forces. This bill also prohibits a court from denying a parent who is a service member periods of physical placement with his or her child based on past or future anticipated variability in his or her schedule, living arrangements, or location due to service in the military.

- LRB 4566, Edming/Jacque, Relating to exempting veterans and members of the armed forces from admissions application fees at University of Wisconsin System schools and technical colleges
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill creates an application fee exemption for veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces applying for admission to University of Wisconsin System schools or technical colleges. Under current law, a student who is a service member must be given priority in registering for courses at UW System schools and technical colleges. A “service member” is defined as a person who has served or is serving on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces, in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, in the national guard, or in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces. Under this bill, a UW System school or technical college may not charge an application fee to a service member applying for admission to the UW System school or technical college or to any program offered at the school or technical college.

- LRB 1488, Jacque, the Recognizing Residency Act – relating to tuition and fee remission for certain veterans and their dependents enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** This bill modifies the residency requirement for the tuition and fee remission program for certain veterans and their spouses and children enrolled in University of Wisconsin System schools and technical colleges. Under current law, if certain criteria are met, veterans and their spouses and 17- to 25-year-old children are eligible for full remission of tuition and fees at UW System schools and technical colleges for up to eight semesters or 128 credits, whichever is longer. Under the veterans fee remission program, the veteran must be a resident of this state when he or she entered military service or be a resident of this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the veteran registers at a UW System school or technical college. Under the fee remission program for the spouse or child of a veteran who suffered service-connected death or disability, the veteran must have been a resident of this state when he or she entered military service or one of the following must apply: 1) if the veteran, while a resident of this state, died on active duty, died as the result of a

service-connected disability, or died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty for training purposes, the veteran must have resided in this state for at least five consecutive years while an adult, or 2) if the veteran received at least a 30 percent service-connected disability rating, the veteran must have resided in this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the veteran's spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college. In addition, if a veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran's spouse or child is eligible for tuition and fee remission only if the spouse or child has resided in this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the spouse's or child's enrollment in a UW System school or technical college. This bill eliminates the five-year durational residency requirement for veterans and their spouses and children under the tuition and fee remission program under circumstances in which the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service. Under the bill, if the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran is still eligible for the tuition and fee remission program if the veteran is a resident of this state immediately before the veteran registers at a UW System school or technical college. Also under the bill, if the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran's spouse and children are still eligible for the tuition and fee remission program if the spouse or child resided in this state immediately before the spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college and if the veteran, as described in 1), above, resided in this state at any time while an adult or the veteran, as described in 2) above, resided in this state immediately before the veteran's spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college. If the applicable requirements for fee remission are met, the veteran or the veteran's spouse or child is eligible for fee remission regardless of whether the veteran or veteran's spouse or child would otherwise qualify as a resident student for tuition or fee purposes.

- LRB 1490, Jacque, Saluting Spouse Waiver – relating to license fee waivers for veterans' spouses
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under current law, veterans are eligible for a fee waiver for certain licenses and certifications. This bill expands eligibility to include the spouse of any veteran included in the current program.

- LRB 1497, Edming/Jacque, the CVSO Formula Reform Act– relating to grants to counties and tribes for veterans services and making an appropriation.

- **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
- **SUMMARY:** Under current law, a county may apply annually to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a grant for the improvement of services provided to former military personnel of the county through the county veterans service office. Grants are awarded based on county population totals. This bill changes the way grant funding is awarded by awarding grants using a formula that first ranks counties based on equalized assessed property values, veteran population density, and veteran population percentage, and then combines the results of those calculations to determine a grant award amount. For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

- LRB 3504, Shilling/Doyle, relating to: Veterans and Surviving Spouse Property Tax Credit
 - **STATUS: CIRCULATING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**
 - **SUMMARY:** Under current law, an eligible veteran or surviving spouse may claim a refundable income tax credit equal to the amount of property taxes the claimant paid during the year on his or her principal dwelling in Wisconsin. Current law does not expressly address the treatment of renters. The Department of Revenue allows an eligible veteran or surviving spouse who is a renter to claim the credit if the claimant is required to pay the property taxes under the rental agreement or other written agreement with the landlord and pays the property taxes directly to the municipality. Under this bill, an eligible veteran or surviving spouse may claim the credit in an amount equal to his or her rent constituting property taxes. The bill defines "rent constituting property taxes" to mean a specified percentage of the rent paid by the claimant during the year for the use of a principal dwelling as housing. The specified percentage is 20 percent if heat is included in the rent and 25 percent if heat is not included.