

RESOLUTION NO.: 135—2015-16

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 Legislation has been proposed which would make various changes to the laws governing
2 veterans affairs, including changes to the powers of certain state public officials of the
3 Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), changes to the powers of the Board of Veterans
4 Affairs, and changes regarding the maintenance of veterans homes.
5

6 The legislation would allow a state public official who is an officer or employee of DVA
7 to solicit, receive, and retain on behalf of the state anything of value for the purpose of
8 supporting veterans homes and members and veterans programs, benefits, and services.
9 The legislation would transfer most of the powers of the Board of Veterans Affairs to
10 DVA.
11

12 Under current law, the board has various powers, including creating policies and making
13 determinations relating to the disposition of funds, the making of loans, and the
14 acquisition and conveyance of buildings and real property. The legislation directs DVA
15 to annually provide \$42,000 to the town of Dover to reimburse the town for the costs of
16 municipal services provided to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove and creates
17 a full-time position within DVA to act as facilities manager at the Wisconsin Veterans
18 Home at Union Grove.
19

20 Under the bill, each county is required to elect or appoint either a county veterans service
21 officer or a county veterans benefit specialist. Current law requires each county to elect
22 or appoint a county veterans service officer. A veterans benefit specialist must be
23 accredited under federal law to assist veterans with benefits to include individuals who
24 served under honorable conditions in a reserve unit of the US Armed Forces or the
25 National Guard. The bill also provides that DVA may approve a county veterans service
26 consortium to administer veterans benefits and services.
27

28 Finally, the bill makes various technical changes to laws governing veterans affairs,
29 including repealing obsolete or outdated appropriations claims and expands who may
30 qualify to be a county veterans service officer
31

32 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health and Human Services Committee
33 recommends adoption of the following resolution.

34 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does oppose proposed
35 legislation which would make changes to the current law governing veterans affairs, changes to powers
36 of officials or employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, changes to the powers of the Board of
37 Veterans Affairs, and changes regarding the maintenance of veterans homes, and

1 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
 2 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Director of Health & Human Services, the Outagamie
 3 County Veterans Services Officer, the Outagamie County Lobbyist for distribution to the Legislature
 4 and Governor, and the Outagamie County Executive.

5 Dated this ____ day of February 2016

6 Respectfully submitted,
 7 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 8 COMMITTEE
 9

10
 11 _____
 12 Jerry Iverson

11 _____
 12 Barney Lemanski

13
 14
 15
 16 _____
 17 Patrick Meyer

16 _____
 17 Kevin Behnke

18
 19
 20
 21 _____
 22 Cathy Spears

23
 24 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____
 25

26 Signed:

27 _____
 28 Board Chairperson

27 _____
 28 County Clerk

29 Approved: _____

Vetoed: _____

30
 31 Signed:

32 _____
 33 County Executive