



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4279/1
AJM:klm

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 591

October 26, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives SHANKLAND, ANDERSON, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, BROSTOFF, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, FIELDS, GOYKE, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, HINTZ, KOLSTE, MASON, OHNSTAD, POPE, SINICKI, SPREITZER, C. TAYLOR, VRUWINK, WACHS, ZAMARRIPA and BARCA, cosponsored by Senators ERPENBACH, VINEHOUT, HANSEN, LARSON, RINGHAND and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 13.94 (1) (bv) of the statutes; **relating to:** receiving reports of
2 mismanagement, abuse, or neglect at state veterans homes.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Legislative Audit Bureau to maintain a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of receiving reports of mismanagement, abuse, or neglect at the state veterans homes from the veterans homes' employees, residents, or families of residents. Under the bill, the LAB is required to conduct an investigation of the report or refer the report to a department to conduct the investigation. The bill requires the LAB to keep the identity of any informant confidential unless the informant expressly agrees to the release of records that reveal the informant's identity. Except as necessary to complete an investigation, the LAB must keep confidential a report, an investigation of that report, and any information from that investigation until the investigation is complete.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- 3 **SECTION 1.** 13.94 (1) (bv) of the statutes is created to read:
4 13.94 (1) (bv) 1. Maintain a toll-free telephone number with voice mail at the
5 bureau's office to receive reports of any mismanagement, abuse, or neglect at state

ASSEMBLY BILL 591**SECTION 1**

1 veterans homes, as defined under s. 45.01 (12m), from employees, residents of the
2 veterans homes, or residents' families. Except as provided in subd. 2., the bureau
3 shall relay these reports to the appropriate bureau employee for investigation. If the
4 bureau has a bureau employee investigate the report, the employee may, subject to
5 subd. 3., consult with any department for any purpose related to the investigation.
6 The bureau shall publicize the toll-free telephone number on the bureau's Internet
7 site. The bureau shall maintain records that permit the release of information
8 provided by informants while protecting the identity of the informant. Any records
9 maintained by the bureau that relate to the identity of informants shall be only for
10 the confidential use of the bureau in the administration of this section, unless the
11 informant expressly agrees to release the records. Appearance in court as a witness
12 shall not be considered consent by an informant to release confidential records
13 maintained by the bureau.

14 2. In lieu of requiring a bureau employee to conduct an investigation of a report
15 received under subd. 1., the bureau may refer a report to a department for
16 investigation. The department shall conduct the investigation and deliver the
17 results of the investigation to the bureau in a timely manner.

18 3. The bureau shall at all times before an investigation of a report received
19 under subd. 1. is completed keep confidential the report and investigation and any
20 information arising from the investigation, except as necessary to conduct the
21 investigation.

22 (END)