



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PLAN AIDS COUNTY VETERANS' PROGRAMS

*Funding increase will help counties better serve those who served*

MADISON... Counties will be better able to provide essential services to our military veterans thanks to an increase in funding added to the Legislature's budget plan today, doubling the increase in Governor Evers' proposal.

Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere) and Rep. James Edming (R- Glen Flora), who have pushed for more funding, said the increase is a good start to help counties do everything in their power to provide veterans with the services they deserve.

"Wisconsin's County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) perform a vital function in providing outstanding advocacy, support and service at the local level, filling the gaps between other veterans programs," Sen. Jacque said. "Unfortunately, the funding for these grants has not been increased for many years and the burden for funding our state's CVSO offices has continued to shift more onto the counties."

"I have seen first-hand in my district the positive impact CVSOs make for those who served our country," said Rep. Edming. "However at times the services they provide can be hurt due to the lack of funding."

Sen. Jacque and Rep. Edming have pushed lawmakers to increase funding for CVSOs, which currently receive \$761,000 annually. The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee approved a \$78,000 annual increase, twice that of the Governor.

In 1973, the Wisconsin Legislature passed legislation authorizing a grant to counties meeting minimum budget and operating standards to provide for increased levels of service to the veterans of those counties. The grant is entirely voluntary and leaves full operating control to the CVSO office with the county board. The scale of grants available were originally divided into three categories based originally on the equalized assessed property values of the counties.

Rep. Edming and Sen. Jacque said they will continue to seek greater state support for CVSOs.

"This funding increase is a good start toward getting our CVSOs the resources they need to serve our veterans," Sen. Jacque said.

"I remain committed to providing more support for our CVSOs and the critical work they do," said Rep. Edming.

The Joint Finance Committee will continue work on the 2021-23 state budget this month. The spending plan must then pass both houses and be signed by the Governor to take effect.

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