ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADOPTING RULES

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs hereby proposes an order to create VA 2.02 (8) and 2.04 (3) (g), relating to the part-time study grant program and the tuition and fee reimbursement grant program.

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Statutory authority: sec. 45.35 (3), Stats.

Statutes interpreted: ss. 45.25 and 45.396, Stats.

The creation of VA 2.02 (8) and 2.04 (3) (g) will determine the circumstances under which an applicant will satisfactorily complete a semester or course. The rule language would impose the requirement that the applicant receive at least a "C" for a graded course or a "pass" or "satisfactory" determination for other courses for which a part-time study grant is sought or a "C" or a 2.0 average for the semester for which a tuition and fee reimbursement grant is sought, in addition to any other eligibility criteria. This requirement is consistent with that imposed under the National Guard tuition grant under s. 21.49.

There is no current or pending federal regulation that addresses reimbursement for educational grants under state veterans' programs. There are no similar rules in adjacent states. This rule has no regulatory aspect to it, has no effect upon small businesses, nor any significant fiscal impact upon the private sector.

The department's contact person is John Rosinski, who may be contacted at (608) 266-7916, at john.rosinski@dva.state.wi.us or at the following address. Comments may be sent by August 18, 2004 to the department at 30 W. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53707.

The public hearing will be conducted on Friday, August 20, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., at the Veterans Home in Union Grove, Wisconsin.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. VA 2.02 (8) is created to read:

VA 2.02 (8) SATISFACTORY COMPLETION. Reimbursement may be made for a course graded by letter grades only if the veteran achieves a grade of "C" or better. Courses graded on a pass-fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may be reimbursed if the veteran achieves a grade of "pass" or "satisfactory."

SECTION 2. VA 2.04 (3) (g) is created to read:

VA 2.04 (3) (g) Satisfactory completion of semester. No veteran may receive a grant under s. 45.25, Stats., if the veteran does not attain a "C" or a 2.0 average for the semester for which reimbursement is sought.

The amendment of the rule contained in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats., and shall apply to all courses or semesters started after that effective date.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, October 4, 2004.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN A. SCOCOS, SECRETARY