



# Van H. Wanggaard

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## **Wanggaard Passes Bill to Ease Worker Shortage at Veterans' Homes**

MADISON - A bill that would temporarily make it easier to hire workers at Wisconsin's chronically understaffed Veterans' Homes is on the way to Governor Evers' desk following passage by the Senate today. State Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) introduced the bill in response to concerns about the lack of staff at the Veterans' Home at Union Grove, which is located in their districts.

"Like most of the country, Wisconsin is facing a shortage of health care workers. We've been hearing from residents, staff and families for years about the lack of staff at Union Grove," said Wanggaard. "The current staff does the best it can, but one person can only do so much. This bill is an important tool to make sure our veterans get the care they deserve."

Under Assembly Bill 1079, hiring timelines at the Veterans' Homes would be shortened from one month to one week. Civil service ratings and interviews would be waived for most employees providing direct care. Workers with a degree or license pending could be hired on a conditional basis. In addition, workers would be given the opportunity to be paid on a weekly basis. The bill's provisions sunset in 2029.

"It's a highly competitive market for health care professionals in southeast Wisconsin. Why wait a month to get hired when you can get hired next week somewhere else?" said Wanggaard. "When someone is willing and qualified to work with our veterans we should be opening the door to welcome them and thank them. We can't let a qualified applicant slip through our fingers because the hiring process is so cumbersome and difficult."

Assembly Bill 1079 now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature.