



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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March 8, 2019

TO: Representative Robin Vos
Room 217 West, State Capitol

FROM: Erin Probst, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Veterans Tuition Remission Program Requirements and Requirements for Resident Tuition Eligibility for Undocumented Individuals Under 2019 AB 56/SB 59

At your request, this memorandum provides information regarding the current law requirements for veteran tuition fee remission and the proposed requirements for undocumented individuals to be eligible for resident tuition at UW System institutions and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) districts under the Governor's biennial budget bill, 2019 AB 56/SB 59.

Remission of All Tuition and Fees for Veterans Under Current Law

Under current law, the UW System Board of Regents and technical college district boards must remit 100% of tuition and fees, less any amount paid under the federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer, to eligible veterans. To qualify as a veteran eligible for this remission, a student must be verified by the Department of Veterans Affairs as: (a) being a resident of this state for the purpose of receiving benefits; (b) having been a resident of this state at the time of entry into the armed services or having resided in this state for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the semester in which the student enrolls; and (c) having qualifying military service. Veterans are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 to remain eligible for remissions.

Proposed Exemption from Nonresident Tuition for Undocumented Individuals

Under the Governor's budget bill, AB 56/SB 59, a person who is a citizen of a country other than the U.S., while they continue to be a resident of Wisconsin, would be entitled to an exemption from UW System nonresident tuition, but not from incidental or other fees, and would be considered a resident of Wisconsin for the purpose of WTCS admission requirements and fees and tuition requirements if that person meets all of the following requirements: (a) the person graduated from a high school in Wisconsin or received a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation from Wisconsin; (b) the person was continuously present in this state for at least three years following the first day of attending a high school in Wisconsin or immediately preceding receipt of a declaration

of equivalency of high school graduation; (c) the person enrolls in an institution and provides that institution with proof that the person has filed or will file an application for a permanent resident visa with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as soon as the person is eligible to do so. These provisions would first apply to persons who enroll for the semester or session following the effective date of the bill.

I hope this information is useful. Please contact me with any additional questions.

ER/sas