



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4214/1
ARG&AJM:jld&wlj

2017 BILL

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 321.40 (3) (b) 3.; and *to amend* 321.40 (3) (a), 321.40 (3) (b) 2.
2 and 321.40 (3) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** the tuition grant program for
3 national guard members administered by the Department of Military Affairs.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill clarifies the tuition grant amount awarded to eligible national guard members who complete higher education courses and modifies provisions relating to administration of the tuition grant program.

Under current law, the Department of Military Affairs awards tuition grants to national guard members to reimburse them for higher education tuition costs if certain eligibility criteria and other requirements are satisfied. Grant applications must contain information required by DMA to establish that the applicant qualifies for the grant. They must also contain the signatures of the guard member and a representative of the guard member's school, certifying course completion and that the guard member maintains the required minimum grade point average. The amount of the tuition grant payment is equal to 100 percent of the actual tuition charged by the guard member's school or 100 percent of the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a comparable number of credits, whichever amount is less.

Current law also authorizes the Board of Regents of the UW System to establish differing tuition for different classes of students enrolled in educational programs, commonly referred to as differential tuition. Although current law does not define differential tuition, the Board of Regents adopted a policy describing differential

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tuition as tuition that is added to the base tuition level for the purpose of supplementing services and programming for students within a UW System institution. Differential tuition, which can be institution-wide or program-specific, must be approved by the Board of Regents and, after approval, may be incorporated into the institution's tuition schedule. For example, the Board of Regents has approved program-specific differential tuition at UW-Madison for students in engineering and business programs.

This bill clarifies that differential tuition, as applicable, must be included in calculating the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by UW-Madison when DMA determines the amount of tuition grants to award to eligible guard members. The bill also removes the requirement that grant applications contain the signatures of the guard member and the school's representative certifying course completion and compliance with GPA requirements. The bill requires DMA to rely on a qualifying school's certification in determining that an applicant has achieved the minimum GPA to be eligible for a tuition grant. The bill also requires DMA to make payment of the tuition grant not later than 30 days after receiving this certification.

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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 321.40 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 321.40 (3) (a) Any eligible guard member upon satisfactory completion of a
3 full-time or part-time course in a qualifying school may apply for a tuition grant
4 equal to 100 percent of the actual tuition charged by the school or 100 percent of the
5 maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by the University of
6 Wisconsin-Madison for a comparable number of credits, whichever amount is less.
7 In calculating the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by the
8 University of Wisconsin-Madison for purposes of this paragraph, the department
9 shall include in the calculation all additional tuition established or approved by the
10 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System under s. 36.27 (1) (a) for
11 undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and for students
12 enrolled in a particular undergraduate academic program at the University of

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1 Wisconsin-Madison if the eligible guard member is enrolled in the same or
2 equivalent program.

3 **SECTION 2.** 321.40 (3) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 321.40 (3) (b) 2. Contain such information and be in such form as the
5 department requires to establish that the applicant qualifies for the grant; ~~and.~~

6 **SECTION 3.** 321.40 (3) (b) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

7 **SECTION 4.** 321.40 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 321.40 (3) (c) Except as provided under par. (d), upon determination that the
9 applicant is eligible to receive the payment, the department shall make payment of
10 the tuition grant to the applicant in the amount determined under par. (a).
11 Notwithstanding par. (b) 2., the department shall rely on a qualifying school's
12 certification in determining that an applicant is eligible under sub. (2) (e) to receive
13 the payment and the department shall make the payment not later than 30 days
14 after the department receives the certification.

15 (END)