



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1653/1

ARG:cdc

2025 SENATE BILL 59

February 21, 2025 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE and TOMCZYK, cosponsored by Representatives MURPHY, MAXEY, ARMSTRONG, BRILL, GUNDRUM, KREIBICH, MURSAU, O'CONNOR, SINICKI, WICHGERS and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. a., 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. b., 36.27 (3n) (b)
2 (intro.), 36.27 (3n) (bd), 36.27 (3n) (bg), 36.27 (3n) (bm), 36.27 (3n) (c), 36.27
3 (3p) (a) 1r. (intro.), 38.24 (7) (a) 1m. a., 38.24 (7) (a) 1m. b., 38.24 (7) (a) 1p.,
4 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.), 38.24 (7) (bd), 38.24 (7) (bg), 38.24 (7) (bm) and 38.24 (8)
5 (a) 1r. (intro.); **to create** 36.27 (3n) (a) 1r. of the statutes; **relating to:** tuition
6 and fee remission for certain veterans and their dependents enrolled in the
7 University of Wisconsin System or a technical college.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill modifies the residency requirement for the tuition and fee remission program for certain veterans and their spouses and children enrolled in University of Wisconsin System schools and technical colleges.

Under current law, if certain criteria are met, veterans and their spouses and 17- to 25-year-old children are eligible for full remission of tuition and fees at UW System schools and technical colleges for up to eight semesters or 128 credits, whichever is longer. Under the veterans fee remission program, the veteran must be a resident of this state when he or she entered military service or be a resident of

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this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the veteran registers at a UW System school or technical college. Under the fee remission program for the spouse or child of a veteran who suffered service-connected death or disability, the veteran must have been a resident of this state when he or she entered military service or one of the following must apply: 1) if the veteran, while a resident of this state, died on active duty, died as the result of a service-connected disability, or died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty for training purposes, the veteran must have resided in this state for at least five consecutive years while an adult, or 2) if the veteran received at least a 30 percent service-connected disability rating, the veteran must have resided in this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the veteran's spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college. In addition, if a veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran's spouse or child is eligible for tuition and fee remission only if the spouse or child has resided in this state for at least five consecutive years immediately before the spouse's or child's enrollment in a UW System school or technical college.

This bill eliminates the five-year durational residency requirement for veterans and their spouses and children under the tuition and fee remission program under circumstances in which the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service. Under the bill, if the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran is still eligible for the tuition and fee remission program if the veteran is a resident of this state immediately before the veteran registers at a UW System school or technical college. Also under the bill, if the veteran was not a resident of this state when he or she entered military service, the veteran's spouse and children are still eligible for the tuition and fee remission program if the spouse or child resided in this state immediately before the spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college and if the veteran, as described in 1), above, resided in this state at any time while an adult or the veteran, as described in 2), above, resided in this state immediately before the veteran's spouse or child registers at a UW System school or technical college. If the applicable requirements for fee remission are met, the veteran or the veteran's spouse or child is eligible for fee remission regardless of whether the veteran or veteran's spouse or child would otherwise qualify as a resident student for tuition or fee purposes.

For further information see the state and local 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.** 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. a. of the statutes is amended to read:
- 2 36.27 (**3n**) (a) 1m. a. A person who has served on active duty under honorable

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1 conditions in the U.S. armed forces, in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed
2 forces, in the national guard, or in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces;
3 who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that service or resided in
4 this state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ after the person attained the age of 18; and
5 who, while a resident of this state, died on active duty, died as the result of a
6 service-connected disability, or died in the line of duty while on active or inactive
7 duty for training purposes.

8 **SECTION 2.** 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

9 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. b. A person who was a resident of this state at the time of
10 entry into service described in subd. 1m. a. or resided in this state ~~for at least 5~~
11 ~~consecutive years~~ immediately preceding the beginning of any semester or session
12 for which the person's spouse or child described in par. (b) 1., 2., or 3. registers at an
13 institution, and who the U.S. department of veteran affairs has awarded at least a
14 30 percent service-connected disability rating under 38 USC 1114 or 1134.

15 **SECTION 3.** 36.27 (3n) (a) 1r. of the statutes is created to read:

16 36.27 (3n) (a) 1r. "Nonresident tuition" has the meaning given in sub. (3p) (a)
17 1m.

18 **SECTION 4.** 36.27 (3n) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 36.27 (3n) (b) (intro.) Except as provided in pars. (bd) and (bg), the board shall
20 grant full remission of nonresident tuition, academic fees, and segregated fees for
21 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer, less the number of credits or
22 semesters for which the person received remission of fees under s. 38.24 (7) or
23 tuition offsets under grants under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any

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1 nonresident tuition, academic fees, or segregated fees paid under 38 USC 3319, to
2 any ~~resident~~ student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0
3 and is also any of the following:

4 **SECTION 5.** 36.27 (3n) (bd) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 36.27 **(3n)** (bd) If an eligible veteran was not a resident of this state at the
6 time of entry into service described in par. (a) 1m. a., the board may grant a
7 remission of nonresident tuition, academic fees, and segregated fees under this
8 subsection only if the eligible veteran's spouse or child described in par. (b) 1., 2., or
9 3. has resided in this state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ immediately preceding
10 the spouse's or child's enrollment in an institution.

11 **SECTION 6.** 36.27 (3n) (bg) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 36.27 **(3n)** (bg) Before the Board of Regents may grant a remission of
13 nonresident tuition, academic fees, and segregated fees under par. (b), the Board of
14 Regents shall require the ~~resident~~ student to apply to the payment of those fees all
15 educational assistance to which the ~~resident~~ student is entitled under 38 USC 3319.
16 If that educational assistance covers 100 percent of those fees for a credit or
17 semester, that credit or semester shall not count against the 128 credit or 8
18 semester limit provided in par. (b). If that educational assistance covers less than
19 100 percent of those fees for a credit or semester and the remission under par. (b)
20 covers the remainder of those fees, the credit or semester shall count against that
21 limit in the proportion that the remission bears to the total nonresident tuition,
22 academic fees, and segregated fees charged for that credit or semester. This
23 requirement applies notwithstanding the fact that the ~~resident~~ student may be

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1 entitled to educational assistance under 10 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38
2 USC 3500 to 3566 as well as under 38 USC 3319, unless the ~~resident~~ student has 12
3 months or less of eligibility remaining for educational assistance under 10 USC
4 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566.

5 **SECTION 7.** 36.27 (3n) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 36.27 **(3n)** (bm) 1. For a ~~resident~~ student who is entitled to educational
7 assistance under 10 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566 and
8 under 38 USC 3319, if the amount of educational assistance, not including
9 educational assistance for tuition, to which the ~~resident~~ student is entitled under 10
10 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566 is greater than the amount of
11 educational assistance, not including educational assistance for tuition, that the
12 ~~resident~~ student received under 38 USC 3319, as determined by the higher
13 educational aids board, in the academic year the higher educational aids board
14 shall reimburse the ~~resident~~ student for the difference in those amounts of
15 educational assistance, as calculated by the higher educational aids board, from the
16 appropriation account under s. 20.235 (1) (fz). The higher educational aids board
17 shall make that determination and calculation in consultation with the Board of
18 Regents.

19 2. If in any fiscal year there are insufficient moneys available in the
20 appropriation account under s. 20.235 (1) (fz) to provide full reimbursement under
21 subd. 1. to all ~~resident~~ students who are eligible for that reimbursement, the higher
22 educational aids board and the Board of Regents shall reimburse those ~~resident~~
23 students as provided in s. 39.50 (4).

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1 **SECTION 8.** 36.27 (3n) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 36.27 **(3n)** (c) The higher educational aids board shall reimburse the board of
3 regents for all nonresident tuition, academic fees, and segregated fees remitted
4 under par. (b) as provided in s. 39.50 (1) and (3m).

5 **SECTION 9.** 36.27 (3p) (a) 1r. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 36.27 **(3p)** (a) 1r. (intro.) “Veteran” means a person who is verified by the
7 department of veterans affairs as being a resident of this state for purposes of
8 receiving benefits under ch. 45; as being a resident of this state at the time of his or
9 her entry into the U.S. armed forces or forces incorporated in the U.S. armed forces
10 or as being a resident of this state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ immediately
11 preceding the beginning of any semester or session for which the person registers at
12 an institution; and as meeting any of the following conditions:

13 **SECTION 10.** 38.24 (7) (a) 1m. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

14 38.24 **(7)** (a) 1m. a. A person who has served on active duty under honorable
15 conditions in the U.S. armed forces, in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed
16 forces, in the national guard, or in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces;
17 who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that service or resided in
18 this state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ after the person attained the age of 18; and
19 who, while a resident of this state, died on active duty, died as the result of a
20 service-connected disability, or died in the line of duty while on active or inactive
21 duty for training purposes.

22 **SECTION 11.** 38.24 (7) (a) 1m. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

23 38.24 **(7)** (a) 1m. b. A person who was a resident of this state at the time of

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1 entry into service described in subd. 1m. a. or resided in this state ~~for at least 5~~
2 ~~consecutive years~~ immediately preceding the beginning of any semester or session
3 for which the person's spouse or child described in par. (b) 1., 2., or 3. registers at a
4 technical college, and who the U.S. department of veteran affairs has awarded at
5 least a 30 percent service-connected disability rating under 38 USC 1114 or 1134.

6 **SECTION 12.** 38.24 (7) (a) 1p. of the statutes is amended to read:

7 38.24 (7) (a) 1p. "Fees" means the amount charged to a ~~resident~~ student
8 under sub. (1m) (a) to (c) to enroll in a course leading to an associate degree,
9 collegiate transfer, or vocational diploma. In the case of a distance education,
10 online, or other course for which the amount charged to enroll in the course equals
11 at least 100 percent of the cost of offering the course, "fees" includes the regular fees
12 charged to a ~~resident~~ student under sub. (1m) (a) to (c) to enroll in the course and
13 any additional fees charged to that student under sub. (1m) (a) to (c) to enroll in that
14 course.

15 **SECTION 13.** 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.) Except as provided in pars. (bd) and (bg), the district
17 board shall grant full remission of fees for 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is
18 longer, less the number of credits or semesters for which the person received
19 remission of fees from any other district board under this subsection and from the
20 Board of Regents under s. 36.27 (3n) (b) and for which the person received tuition
21 offsets under grants under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any fees paid
22 under 38 USC 3319, to any ~~resident~~ student who maintains a cumulative grade
23 point average of at least 2.0 and is also any of the following:

SENATE BILL 59**SECTION 14**

1 **SECTION 14.** 38.24 (7) (bd) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 38.24 (7) (bd) If an eligible veteran was not a resident of this state at the time
3 of entry into service described in par. (a) 1m. a., the district board may grant a
4 remission of ~~academic fees and segregated~~ fees under this subsection only if the
5 eligible veteran's spouse or child described in par. (b) 1., 2., or 3. ~~has~~ resided in this
6 state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ immediately preceding the spouse's or child's
7 enrollment in a technical college.

8 **SECTION 15.** 38.24 (7) (bg) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 38.24 (7) (bg) Before the district board may grant a remission of fees under
10 par. (b), the district board shall require the ~~resident~~ student to apply to the
11 payment of those fees all educational assistance to which the ~~resident~~ student is
12 entitled under 38 USC 3319. If that educational assistance covers 100 percent of
13 those fees for a credit or semester, that credit or semester shall not count against
14 the 128 credit or 8 semester limit provided in par. (b). If that educational assistance
15 covers less than 100 percent of those fees for a credit or semester and the remission
16 under par. (b) covers the remainder of those fees, the credit or semester shall count
17 against that limit in the proportion that the remission bears to the total fees
18 charged for that credit or semester. This requirement applies notwithstanding the
19 fact that the ~~resident~~ student may be entitled to educational assistance under 10
20 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566 as well as under 38 USC
21 3319, unless the ~~resident~~ student has 12 months or less of eligibility remaining for
22 educational assistance under 10 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to
23 3566.

SENATE BILL 59**SECTION 16**

1 **SECTION 16.** 38.24 (7) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 38.24 (7) (bm) 1. For a ~~resident~~ student who is entitled to educational
3 assistance under 10 USC 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566 and
4 under 38 USC 3319, if the amount of educational assistance, other than educational
5 assistance for tuition, to which the ~~resident~~ student is entitled under 10 USC
6 16132a, 10 USC 16163a, or 38 USC 3500 to 3566 is greater than the amount of
7 educational assistance, other than educational assistance for tuition, that the
8 ~~resident~~ student received under 38 USC 3319, as determined by the higher
9 educational aids board, in the academic year the higher educational aids board
10 shall reimburse the ~~resident~~ student for the difference in those amounts of
11 educational assistance, as calculated by the higher educational aids board, from the
12 appropriation account under s. 20.235 (1) (fz). The higher educational aids board
13 shall make that determination and calculation in consultation with the board and
14 district board.

15 2. If in any fiscal year there are insufficient moneys available in the
16 appropriation account under s. 20.235 (1) (fz) to provide full reimbursement under
17 subd. 1. to all ~~resident~~ students who are eligible for that reimbursement, the higher
18 educational aids board and the district board shall reimburse those ~~resident~~
19 students as provided in s. 39.50 (4).

20 **SECTION 17.** 38.24 (8) (a) 1r. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 38.24 (8) (a) 1r. (intro.) “Veteran” means a person who is verified by the
22 department of veterans affairs as being a resident of this state for purposes of
23 receiving benefits under ch. 45; as being a resident of this state at the time of his or

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1 her entry into the U.S. armed forces or forces incorporated in the U.S. armed forces
2 or as being a resident of this state ~~for at least 5 consecutive years~~ immediately
3 preceding the beginning of any semester or session for which the person registers at
4 a technical college; and as meeting any of the following conditions:

5 **SECTION 18. Initial applicability.**

6 (1) This act first applies to the first semester or session beginning after the
7 effective date of this subsection.

8 (END)