



2023 SENATE BILL 786

December 8, 2023 - Introduced by Senators SMITH, ROYS, TAYLOR, HESSELBEIN, LARSON and SPREITZER, cosponsored by Representatives BILLINGS, J. ANDERSON, JOERS, C. ANDERSON, CLANCY, CONLEY, DRAKE, EMERSON, JACOBSON, MADISON, MOORE OMOKUNDE, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, ORTIZ-VELEZ, PALMERI, RATCLIFF, SHELTON, SINICKI, STUBBS, SUBECK and VINING. Referred to Committee on Universities and Revenue.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.235 (1) (dm) and 39.467 of the statutes; **relating to:** climate
2 change scholarships and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a climate change scholarship program to be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board. The program provides scholarships to students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education and who are engaged in studies directly related to programs preparing the students for careers in occupational areas addressing or responding to climate change. A student may not receive more than \$5,000 in scholarships under this program in each academic year.

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:

3 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
4 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

SENATE BILL 786

SECTION 1

2023-24

2024-25

1 **20.235 Higher Educational Aids Board**

2 (1) STUDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

3 (dm) Climate change scholarship pro-

4 gram GPR B 5,000,000 5,000,000

5 **SECTION 2.** 20.235 (1) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.235 (1) (dm) *Climate change scholarship program.* Biennially, the amounts
7 in the schedule for the climate change scholarship program under s. 39.467.

8 **SECTION 3.** 39.467 of the statutes is created to read:

9 **39.467 Climate change scholarship program.** (1) In this section,
10 “institution of higher education” means an institution or college campus within the
11 University of Wisconsin System, a technical college within the technical college
12 system, a tribally controlled college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher
13 education located in this state.

14 (2) The board shall create and administer a program awarding scholarships to
15 resident students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education and who are
16 engaged in studies directly related to programs preparing the students for careers
17 in occupational areas addressing or responding to climate change. A student may
18 not receive more than \$5,000 in scholarships under this program in each academic
19 year.

20 (3) In each academic year, the board shall ensure that of the scholarships
21 awarded from the program under sub. (2), one-half are awarded on the basis of merit
22 and one-half are awarded on the basis of financial need.

