

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 11/22/2005

LRB Number	05-3583/2	Introduction Number	SB-427	Estimate Type	Original
Description Eligibility for tuition fee remission for spouses and children of certain veterans					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 427 expands the eligibility created in 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 (the 2005 Budget Act) for tuition remission for spouses and children of veterans who attend one of the 16 WTCS colleges. Wisconsin Act 25 provides full remission to spouses, children or surviving spouses of veterans who entered service while a Wisconsin resident and who while a resident died or incurred a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more.

SB 427 expands eligibility by authorizing the exemption for spouses, surviving spouses and children of veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more if the veteran lived in Wisconsin for at least 10 continuous years before the student registers.

WTCS colleges impose tuition and fees to recover a portion of the costs of providing WTCS educational programs. These learner fees, along with state aid and property taxes, are the major college revenue sources.

The number of WTCS fee and tuition exemptions that might be granted under SB 427 is unknown. SB 427 does not provide GPR to fund the proposed exemption thus the remissions would create a mandatory cost increase for WTCS colleges but would not have a state fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The number of WTCS fee and tuition exemptions that might be required under SB 427 is unknown. However, because SB 427 does not provide GPR to offset the tuition remissions authorized by the bill, WTCS colleges would be required to fund the annual cost of providing the remissions from other sources: non-veteran student tuition and local property taxes. As a result, the remissions provided under SB 427 would increase local costs and decrease local revenue.