Fiscal Estimate - 2007 Session

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LRB	Number	07-2232/3		Intro	duction	Numbe	r S	B-539	
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives UWS 3/14/2008

LRB Number 07-2232/3	Introduction Number SB-539	Estimate Type	Original
Description			-
Tuition fee remission for certain	spouses of eligible veterans		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a spouse, child or unremarried surviving spouse of certain veterans is eligible for a full remission of tuition at the University of Wisconsin System and at technical colleges. This bill adds full tuition remission eligibility to the spouse of an eligible veteran if the veteran died of a service-connected disability or had a service-connected disability that is rated as 100 percent, and if the spouse is eligible for the educational assistance benefits under the federal Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. The bill provides that a person is only eligible for the full tuition remission for the ten-year period that the original fee remission was based on. Eligibility applies only during one of the following periods: 1.) the first 10 years after the eligible veteran received the service connected-disability rating; 2.) the first 10 years after the spouse becomes eligible for educational assistance under 35 USC 3501-3566; or 3.) the first 10 years after the effective date of this bill, if the spouse was eligible for educational assistance under 35 USC 3501-3566 on that date.

This legislation will greatly broaden the definition of eligible veterans' spouses. Spouses that may not have qualified for remission in the past because they were beyond the ten-year eligibility period, may now qualify with this bill. The University of Wisconsin System cannot estimate additional costs which will be incurred as a result, however, these additional costs should be minimal.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

As the cost of tuition increases, the cost of this legislation on the UW-System will also increase.