

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 3/21/2014

LRB Number	13-4276/2	Introduction Number	SB-677	Estimate Type	Original
Description Providing free tuition and fees for resident students enrolled in technical colleges and University of Wisconsin college campuses and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 677 directs the Wisconsin Technical College System Board to ensure that, beginning in the 2014-15 academic year, resident students enrolled in a technical college attend free of tuition and fees. The bill provides an annual appropriation of \$300 million beginning in 2014-15.

The appropriation provided in the bill would largely offset current tuition and fee payments paid by students attending the WTCS. Changes in enrollment could affect the need for additional state revenue to support the colleges if they are not allowed to charge tuition.

The bill eliminates all tuition charges, including for courses that state statutes currently allow colleges to charge amounts beyond uniform tuition and fees, such as court-approved alcohol or other drug abuse education programs, professional development/ vocational adult seminars or workshops up to 24 hours, and vocational-adult courses required to improve the skills beyond entry level if the course is required by state or federal law, rule or regulation or to maintain licensure or certification.

By eliminating tuition and fee, the bill also eliminates tuition remission programs. As a result, an unintended consequence is the likely loss of federal revenue paid for veterans qualifying for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, also known as Chapter 33.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications