



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2800/1
CMH:kjf

2019 SENATE BILL 537

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 36.27 (3n) (b) (intro.), 36.27 (3p) (b), 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.) and
2 38.24 (8) (b); and *to create* 20.235 (1) (a) and 39.49 of the statutes; **relating to:**
3 veteran-related tuition grants for certain veterans and dependents enrolled in
4 private nonprofit institutions of higher education and making an
5 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

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

SENATE BILL 537

SECTION 1

2019-20

2020-21

1 **20.235 Higher educational aids board**

2 (1) STUDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

3 (a) Private institution grants for

4 veterans and dependents GPR B -0- 2,500,000

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

6 20.235 (1) (a) *Private institution grants for veterans and dependents.*

7 Biennially, the amounts in the schedule for grants under s. 39.49 (2) (a).

8 **SECTION 2d.** 36.27 (3n) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 36.27 (3n) (b) (intro.) Except as provided in pars. (bd) and (bg), the board shall
10 grant full remission of academic fees and segregated fees for 128 credits or 8
11 semesters, whichever is longer, less the number of credits or semesters for which the
12 person received remission of fees under s. 38.24 (7) or tuition offsets under grants
13 under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any academic fees or segregated fees
14 paid under 38 USC 3319, to any resident student who maintains a cumulative grade
15 point average of at least 2.0 and is also any of the following:

16 **SECTION 2h.** 36.27 (3p) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 36.27 (3p) (b) Except as provided in par. (bg), the board shall grant full
18 remission of nonresident tuition, academic fees, and segregated fees charged for 128
19 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer, less the number of credits or semesters
20 for which the person received remission of fees under s. 38.24 (8) or tuition offsets
21 under grants under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any academic fees or
22 segregated fees paid under 10 USC 2107 (c), 38 USC 3104 (a) (7) (A), or 38 USC 3313,

SENATE BILL 537

1 to any student who is a veteran and maintains a cumulative grade point average of
2 at least 2.0.

3 **SECTION 2p.** 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 38.24 (7) (b) (intro.) Except as provided in pars. (bd) and (bg), the district board
5 shall grant full remission of fees for 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer,
6 less the number of credits or semesters for which the person received remission of
7 fees from any other district board under this subsection and from the Board of
8 Regents under s. 36.27 (3n) (b) and for which the person received tuition offsets under
9 grants under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any fees paid under 38 USC
10 3319, to any resident student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of at
11 least 2.0 and is also any of the following:

12 **SECTION 2t.** 38.24 (8) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 38.24 (8) (b) Except as provided in par. (bg), the district board shall grant full
14 remission of the fees charged for 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer, less
15 the number of credits or semesters for which the person received remission of fees
16 from any other district board under this subsection and from the Board of Regents
17 under s. 36.27 (3p) and for which the person received tuition offsets under grants
18 under s. 39.49 (2) (a) 1. and less the amount of any fees paid under 10 USC 2107 (c),
19 38 USC 3104 (a) (7) (A), or 38 USC 3313, to any student who is a veteran and
20 maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

21 **SECTION 3.** 39.49 of the statutes is created to read:

22 **39.49 Private institution grants for veterans and dependents. (1)**

23 DEFINITIONS. In this section:

24 (a) "Deceased or disabled veteran" means an eligible veteran, as defined in s.
25 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m., except that, for purposes of this section, the word institution in

SENATE BILL 537**SECTION 3**

1 s. 36.27 (3n) (a) 1m. b. means private institution. In determining a person's residence
2 at the time of entry into service for purposes of this paragraph, the state from which
3 the person entered service is irrelevant.

4 (b) "Dependent" means any of the following of a deceased or disabled veteran:

5 1. A spouse.

6 2. An unremarried surviving spouse.

7 3. A child, if the child is at least 17 but not yet 26 years of age.

8 (c) "Eligible student" means a student who is a veteran or dependent.

9 (d) "Entry into service" means entry into the U.S. armed forces, in forces
10 incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, in the national guard, or in a reserve
11 component of the U.S. armed forces.

12 (e) "Private institution" means a private nonprofit institution that is a member
13 of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

14 (f) The definition of "veteran" given in s. 36.27 (3p) (a) 1r. applies in this section
15 as it applies in s. 36.27 (3p), except that, for purposes of this section, the word
16 institution in s. 36.27 (3p) (a) 1r. (intro.) means private institution. In determining
17 a person's residence at the time of entry into service for purposes of this paragraph,
18 the state from which the person entered service is irrelevant.

19 **(2) TUITION GRANTS.** (a) 1. Except as provided in subds. 2. and 3., the board shall
20 make grants from the appropriation under s. 20.235 (1) (a) for the period specified
21 in par. (b) in the amount determined under par. (c) for an eligible student for each
22 semester or session he or she is enrolled in a bachelor's or graduate degree program
23 of a private institution and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least
24 2.0. The board shall make the grants to the private institution in which a student
25 is enrolled to offset the tuition charged by the private institution.

SENATE BILL 537

1 2. If a deceased veteran was not a resident of this state at the time of entry into
2 the service, the board may not make a grant under subd. 1. for an eligible student
3 who is a dependent of the deceased veteran unless the dependent has resided in this
4 state for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding his or her enrollment in
5 a private institution.

6 3. Before the board makes a grant under subd. 1. for an eligible student for a
7 semester or session, the board shall require the eligible student to apply to the
8 payment of tuition for that semester or session all educational assistance to which
9 the eligible student is entitled under 38 USC 3313, if the eligible student is a veteran,
10 or under 38 USC 3319, if the eligible student is a dependent.

11 (b) The board shall make grants under par. (a) 1. for an eligible student for no
12 more than 128 credits or 8 semesters or sessions, whichever is longer, less the
13 number of credits, semesters, or sessions for which the eligible student received
14 remissions under s. 36.27 (3n) or (3p) or 38.24 (7) or (8).

15 (c) The amount of a grant under par. (a) 1. for an eligible student for a semester
16 or session shall equal the lesser of the following:

17 1. Two thousand dollars.

18 2. Fifty percent of the amount of tuition charged by the private institution in
19 which the eligible student is enrolled less one of the following amounts:

20 a. If the eligible student is a veteran, the amount of tuition paid under 10 USC
21 2107 (c), 38 USC 3104 (a) (7) (A), and 38 USC 3313.

22 b. If the student is a dependent, the amount of tuition paid under 38 USC 3319.

23 **(3) MATCHING AMOUNTS REQUIRED.** For each grant made by the board under sub.
24 (2) (a) 1. for an eligible student, the private institution in which an eligible student

SENATE BILL 537

SECTION 3

1 is enrolled shall match the amount of the grant from institutional funds, gifts, or
2 grants of an equal amount to offset the tuition charged to the student.

3 **SECTION 4. Initial applicability.**

4 (1) This act first applies to students enrolled for the first semester or session
5 beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

6 (END)