



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 468
[2005 Senate Bill 613]

**Transfer to Veterans Trust Fund;
Student Fee Remission Program;
Technology Staff**

2005 Wisconsin Act 468 authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to transfer excess moneys from the appropriation account for institutional operations (veterans homes) to the veterans trust fund. The Act also makes changes to the student fee remission program for eligible veterans and family members, and to authorized positions for information technology server and network infrastructure staff.

Transfer of Funds to the Veterans Trust Fund

Under prior law, any excess funds in the appropriation account for DVA institutional operations (veterans homes) that were not spent in the fiscal year for which they were appropriated remained in that appropriation account. *Under the Act*, if the balance in that appropriation account is in excess of the amount needed to fund the operations of the institutions during fiscal year 2006-07, the DVA may transfer up to \$16 million from that appropriation account to the veterans trust fund.

Student Fee Remission Program for Eligible Veterans and Family Members

The Act generally increases the amount of student fee remission available to eligible veterans. *Under prior law*, the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and the technical college district boards were required to provide eligible (as specified in the statutes) veterans resident in Wisconsin a remission generally (with specified subtractions) equal to 50% of the academic fees and segregated fees charged for 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer. *The Act* increases this remission for eligible veterans from 50% to 100%, with the increase first applicable to veterans who enroll for classes in the 2007-08 academic year.

The Act also expands the criteria for veterans whose family members may qualify for student fee remission. The UW System and the technical college district boards are required to provide a spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, and child (at least 18 but not yet 26 years of age and a full-time student) of an "eligible veteran" a full remission (with specified limitations) of academic fees and segregated fees

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

for 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer. *Under prior law*, an “eligible veteran” for this purpose was limited to either of the following:

- A person who had served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces, in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces, in the National Guard, or in a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces; who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that service; and who, while a resident of Wisconsin, either died on active duty, or died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty for training purposes. *The Act* adds to these a veteran who died as a resident of Wisconsin as the result of a service-connected disability, and fulfilled the rest of the criteria described in this bullet.
- A person who was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into service described in the preceding bullet and who, while a resident of Wisconsin, incurred at least a 30% service-connected disability rating. *The Act* deletes the requirement that the veteran had to have been a resident of Wisconsin at the time that he or she incurred at least a 30% service-connected disability rating.

Technology Staff Changes

Under prior law, most state staff employed in the area of information technology server and network infrastructure were consolidated into a central staff at the Department of Administration, including staff from DVA. *The Act* reverses that consolidation for the DVA, and authorizes 3.29 FTE positions in the DVA for the purpose of providing information technology server and network infrastructure staff.

Effective Date: The Act specifies that it takes effect on July 1, 2006.

Prepared by: Mary Offerdahl, Staff Attorney

June 1, 2006

MO:jal