



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 76
[2005 Senate Bill 121]

**Appointment of an Additional
Student to the UW Board of
Regents**

Background

Under current law, the University of Wisconsin (UW) Board of Regents consists of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President or another member of the Technical College System Board, 14 citizens appointed by the Governor, and a UW student who is at least 18 years old. The current student member, also appointed by the Governor, may be selected from recommendations made by elected representatives of student governments at UW institutions.

The 14 citizen members of the Board of Regents serve staggered seven-year terms. The current student member serves a two-year term. The student member must be a Wisconsin resident, enrolled at the UW at least half-time, and be in good academic standing. The Governor may not appoint a student member from the same institution for any two consecutive terms.

Act 76

Wisconsin Act 76 adds an additional UW student to the Board of Regents. The Act requires that this student member must be an undergraduate, at least 24 years old, who represents the views of nontraditional students, such as those who are employed or who are parents. The additional student Regent must also be enrolled at least half-time and be in good academic standing. As with the current student Regent, the additional student may be selected from recommendations made by elected representatives of student governments at UW institutions.

In addition, Act 76 specifies that the two student members who are appointed may not be from the same institution, and specifically provides that a student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a student from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee may not serve on the Board of Regents at the same time. If either student member loses the status upon which the appointment was based, he or she shall cease to be a member of the Board of Regents.

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/>.

Act 76 also specifies that the two-year terms of the student members must be staggered: one member's term will be scheduled to expire on May 1 of every even-numbered year; the other will expire on May 1 of every odd-numbered year. The Act also provides that the initial term of the student member who was at least 24 years old expires on May 1, 2006.

Effective Date: 2006 Act 76 takes effect on January 7, 2006.

Prepared by: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney

January 4, 2006

RW:rv