



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Senate Bill 644

Senate Amendment 1

Memo published: February 8, 2018

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2017 SENATE BILL 644

Senate Bill 644 makes changes relating to the responsibilities of universities and colleges to National Guard members and other service members who withdraw from school because they are called into active military service.

Current law includes a number of protections for service member students that are called into active duty, including that public and private universities and colleges must do the following:

- Reenroll the student beginning in the semester in which he or she is discharged, demobilized, or deactivated from active duty or the next succeeding semester;
- Give the student the same priority in registering for courses that the student would have had if he or she had registered for courses at the beginning of the registration period; and
- At the student's request, do **one** of the following:
 - Reimburse the student all tuition and fees paid for all the courses and a prorated portion of room and board payments;¹ or
 - Grant the student an incomplete in all the courses and permit the student to complete the courses, within six months after leaving state service or active service, without paying additional tuition or fees.

¹ Note that this requirement does not apply to **private institutions** under current law.

The bill does all of the following:

- Retains all of these protections and expands them to students at all private institutions;
- Affords these protections to students called into active military service for any period, not just for 30 days or more, and regardless of whether the call is with or without the consent of the student; and
- Adds a new requirement for all universities and colleges that they must ensure that the student is provided a reasonable opportunity to complete final projects and final examinations for all courses in which the scheduled end date of the course is not more than 30 days after the date of the order calling the student into active service.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

The amendment provides that the requirement that universities and colleges ensure that the student is provided a reasonable opportunity to complete final projects and final examinations for all courses in which the scheduled end date of the course is not more than 30 days after the date of the order calling the student into active service applies “unless such an accommodation cannot be reasonably made.”

BILL HISTORY

On January 3, 2018, Senate Amendment 1 was introduced by Senator Stroebel. On February 8, 2018, the Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Military Affairs and Senior Issues recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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