



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5153/1  
MDK:jld

## 2017 SENATE BILL 700

January 19, 2018 - Introduced by Senators NASS, CRAIG, FEYEN and LEMAHIEU, cosponsored by Representatives AUGUST, SANFELIPPO, ANDERSON, E. BROOKS, PETRYK, EDMING, FELZKOWSKI, STEFFEN, RODRIGUEZ, DUCHOW, TRANEL, SUMMERFIELD, TAUCHEN, R. BROOKS, QUINN, HORLACHER, MURPHY, JACQUE, HUTTON, THIESFELDT and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 20.285 (1) (rm) (title), 36.49 (title) and 36.49 (3); and **to create**  
2             36.49 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** merit scholarships for certain University  
3             of Wisconsin System students and making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

The bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to award merit-based annual \$5,000 scholarships to students enrolled in two-year or four-year UW schools who have graduated from an in-state high school or been granted a high school diploma by the administrator of an in-state home-based private educational program. The scholarships are called "Wisconsin Merit scholarships." The bill requires the Board of Regents to determine student merit based on performance on standardized college entrance examinations and, if applicable, cumulative high school grade point averages. Under current law, income and interest from the normal school fund is appropriated to the Board of Regents to do the following annually: 1) make need-based grants totaling \$100,000 to students at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies who are members of underrepresented groups; 2) provide scholarships totaling \$100,000 to students enrolled in the sustainable management degree program through the UW-Extension; and 3) award the balance to the UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs. Under the bill, the Board of Regents must provide \$300,000 annually to the UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs and award the balance in the scholarships required under the bill.

