AN ACT to amend 38.04 (11) (a) 2, 38.24 (1m) (b), 115.28 (38), 118.33 (3m) and 119.44 (2) (a) 1. a.; and to create 118.15 (1) (cm) of the statutes, relating to: an exemption from regular school attendance for 17-year-olds who began a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma in a secured correctional facility.

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

SECTION 1. 38.04 (11) (a) 2. of the statutes, as created by 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, is amended to read:

38.04 (11) (a) 2. In consultation with the state superintendent of public instruction, the board shall establish, by rule, a uniform format for district boards to use in reporting the number of pupils attending district schools under ss. 118.15 (1) (b) 2, (cm) and (d) and 118.37 and in reporting pupil participation in technical preparation programs under s. 118.34, including the number of courses taken for advanced standing in the district’s associate degree program and for vocational, technical and adult education credit. The format shall be identical to the format established by the state superintendent under s. 115.28 (38).

SECTION 2. 38.24 (1m) (b) of the statutes, as affected by 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, is amended to read:

38.24 (1m) (b) Postsecondary and vocational–adult programs. Uniform fees based on not less than 14% of the combined estimated statewide operational cost of postsecondary, exclusive of collegiate transfer, and vocational–adult programs. The board shall maintain statewide uniformity in the program fees charged for postsecondary and vocational–adult credits. Students 62 years old and over shall be exempted from program fees under this paragraph. The board shall establish fees under this paragraph as if students exempt from fees under sub. (4) were not exempt.

SECTION 3. 115.28 (38) of the statutes, as created by 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, is amended to read:

115.28 (38) REPORTING OF PUPILS ATTENDING VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. In consultation with the board of vocational, technical and adult education, promulgate rules establishing a uniform format for school boards to use in reporting the number of pupils attending vocational, technical and adult education districts under ss. 118.15 (1) (b), (cm) and (d) and 118.37 and in reporting pupil participation in technical preparation programs under s. 118.34, including the number of courses taken for advanced standing in a vocational, technical and adult education district’s associate degree program and for vocational, technical and adult education credit. The format shall be identical to the format established by the board of vocational, technical and adult education under s. 38.04 (11) (a) 2.

SECTION 4. 118.15 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

118.15 (1) (cm) 1. Upon the child’s request and with the approval of the child’s parent or guardian, any child who is 17 years of age or over shall be excused by the school board from regular school attendance if the child began a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma in a secured correctional facility, as defined in s. 48.02 (15m), and the child and his or her parent or guardian agree under subd. 2 that the child will continue to participate in such a program.
2. Prior to the admission of a child under subd. 1 to a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma, the child, his or her parent or guardian, the school board and a representative of the agency providing the program shall enter into a written agreement. The agreement shall specify that the child is excused from regular school attendance while he or she is enrolled in the program and making progress toward completion of the program, or successfully completes the program. If the agency providing the program determines that the child is not making progress toward completion of the program, the agency shall notify the child and his or her parent or guardian that the agreement may be suspended within 30 days. If the agency suspends the agreement, the agency shall notify the child, his or her parent or guardian and the school board.

3. If the program that the child wishes to attend is provided by a vocational, technical and adult education district, the vocational, technical and adult education district board shall admit the child.

4. A child attending a program under this paragraph shall not be included in membership, as defined in s. 121.004 (5).

5. The state superintendent shall grant a high school equivalency diploma to a child under this paragraph who completes the general educational development test with a passing score, as determined by the state superintendent, and completes the additional requirements determined by the state superintendent under s. 115.29 (4).

SECTION 5. 118.33 (3m) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.33 (3m) A course taken at a vocational, technical and adult education school by a child attending the school part–time or in lieu of high school under s. 118.15 (1) (b), or attending the school under s. 118.15 (1) (cm), does not fulfill any of the high school graduation requirements under sub. (1) (a) unless the state superintendent has approved the course for that purpose.

SECTION 6. 119.44 (2) (a) 1. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

119.44 (2) (a) 1. a. Attending a vocational, technical and adult education school under s. 118.15 (1) (b) or (cm),