

March 2, 2000

**Assembly Bill 340** (Schneider/Schultz)

Restriction on obtaining state employment, issuing driver's licenses and student financial aid based on failure to register with the selective service.

**Summary of Bill -**

This is fairly straightforward. It would prohibit men who have failed to register with the Selective Service System from obtaining student financial aid, state driver's licenses or state employment.

**Staff Comments -**

This sounds like a goofy idea to me. LFB indicates that the agencies affected by the bill don't sound too enthused about implementing it, as it would require more time to process applications. However, it looks like it will receive bipartisan support, as it did in the standing committee. Best to just go with the flow.

**Standing Committee Action -**

The Assembly Committee on veterans and Military Affairs recommended passage of the bill on a vote of 9 to 0.

**Recommended JFC Action -**

Passage of AB 340.

Prepared by: Julie



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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March 2, 2000

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 340: Restrictions on Obtaining State Employment, Operator's Licenses and Student Financial Aid Based on Failure to Register with the Selective Service System

Assembly Bill 340 would restrict access to certain state employment, operator's licenses issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and state-supported student financial assistance to any person who is required under federal law to register with the federal Selective Service System, but has failed to do so. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, which recommended it for passage on a vote of 9-0.

### SUMMARY OF BILL

AB 340 would bar an individual who has failed to register with the Selective Service System from access to certain state employment, DOT-issued operator's licenses and state-supported student financial assistance, as described below. However, these restrictions would apply only during the period that the individual is required to register. Under current federal law, virtually all male United States citizens and male aliens living in the United States who are ages 18 through 25 must register with the Selective Service System. Registration with the Selective Service System is required so that a manpower pool will be available in the event that the Congress passes and the President signs legislation authorizing the reestablishment of a military draft.

**Restrictions on Certain State Employment.** AB 340 would prohibit any person who is required to register with the Selective Service System but has not complied with this requirement from obtaining any of the following types of state employment: (1) an original appointment to a position in the state classified service; (2) an appointment to a position in the University of Wisconsin System as a student assistant, as student hourly help or in a position where the

employment is a necessary part of the individual's training; or (3) an appointment as a corps enrollee in the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. The bill would also recognize these limitations as an exception to the current law requirement that appointments in the state classified service be made only according to merit and fitness, as determined by competitive examination.

Under the provisions of AB 340, there would be no limitations with respect to the appointment of a noncomplying Selective Service registrant to an unclassified state position. Furthermore, once any noncomplying registrant attained the age of 26, the AB 340 limitations to state employment described above would no longer apply.

**Restrictions on the Issuance of Operator's Licenses.** AB 340 would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine whether an applicant for a driver's license is required under federal law to register with the Selective Service System and, if registration is required to register, whether or not the applicant has done so. The bill would prohibit DOT from issuing a license to an applicant during the period that the person is required to register if the applicant has not done so.

**Restrictions on State-Supported Student Financial Assistance.** AB 340 would prohibit the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) from providing any state financial assistance to any person during the period that the person is required to register with the selective service system if that person has not done so.

**Effective Date.** Except for those provisions affecting state employment, the limitations imposed by AB 340 would first be effective on January 1, 2000. The limitations applicable to certain state employment would first apply with respect to appointments made on the first day of the 13<sup>th</sup> month following the effective date of the legislation.

## FISCAL EFFECT

**Restrictions on Certain State Employment.** The Department of Employment Relations (DER) did not submit a fiscal estimate for AB 340. However, DER has indicated that since AB 340 would not require Selective Service System registration as a condition to being certified for state employment (a procedure administered by DER) but does require such registration for appointment to a type of position enumerated by AB 340, it would be the individual appointing agencies that would be responsible for implementing the bill's employment limitations. State agencies currently have the ability to verify a potential appointee's registration status on the Internet. Consequently, DER believes that these costs would be minimal and could be absorbed by the hiring agencies.

In a fiscal estimate to the bill prepared by the UW System, the University indicates that it does not currently have a policy requiring student or other employees to provide proof of registration with the Selective Service System. Since registration is currently required in order for a student to

receive federal financial aid, student employees who receive this aid would already be in compliance with the requirement in the bill. With regard to other new employees, the UW indicates that the burden of proof would be on the applicant to produce a Selective Service card within ten working days of their first day of employment. The University indicates that the costs associated with the bill would be minimal and could be absorbed.

**Restrictions on the Issuance of Operator's Licenses.** DOT indicates that AB 340 would increase the time it takes to process drivers license transactions for certain applicants. Those applicants who failed to bring proof of registration or who have failed to register may need to make two visits to Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service centers to complete the driver's license transaction. Based on the estimated additional time needed to process these transactions, DOT believes that an additional workload equivalent to 1.3 SEG positions, at a cost of \$48,000 SEG annually, would be required to handle the additional workload. The bill does not provide any additional funding for DOT, so these additional costs would have to be absorbed within the base budget of the DMV.

**Restrictions on State-Supported Student Financial Assistance.** Currently, all students who apply for federal financial aid are required to register with the Selective Service System in order to receive the aid. The federal government cross checks financial aid applicants with the Selective Service System and notifies HEAB and the UW System campus to which a student has applied if the student has not registered.

The UW System administers two need-based financial aid programs, the advanced opportunity program, which provides grants to minority and economically disadvantaged graduate students, and the Lawton minority undergraduate grant program. It is assumed that, since these are need-based programs, students who apply for these grants would also have applied for federal financial aid and, therefore, would have registered with the Selective Service System. Other state financial assistance to UW students includes athletic scholarships, short-term loans and nonresident tuition remissions. Due to the relatively small number of students receiving this type of assistance, the University has indicated in its fiscal estimate to the bill, that the costs associated with verifying registration for these students could be absorbed.

HEAB notes that while the agency is notified if a student who has applied for federal financial aid has not registered with the Selective Service System, HEAB does not load this data onto its student record system since proof of registration is not currently required in order to receive state aid. In its fiscal estimate to the bill, HEAB indicates that programming and computer costs to add this information to its database would total an estimated \$2,600. An unknown amount of additional costs would be incurred to ensure compliance under other non-need-based programs such as Minnesota-Wisconsin tuition reciprocity and the academic excellence scholarship programs. Since the bill would not provide additional funding for these purposes, HEAB would have to absorb the associated costs.

Prepared by: Merry Larsen, Jon Dyck and Tony Mason