

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Colleges and
Universities
(AC-CU)**

(Form Updated: 11/20/2008)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Reports ... CR
**

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES
**

➤ Public Hearings ... PH
**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt
**

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)
** **03hr_ab0342_AC-CU_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc
**

Vote Record

Committee on Colleges and Universities

Date: June 3, 2003

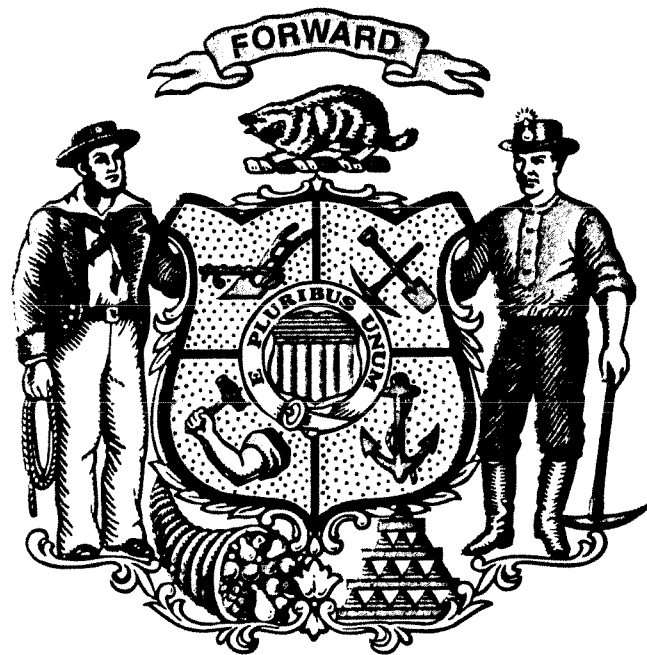
Bill Number: 342 Disc (Tuition)

Moved by: Underheim Seconded by: Nass

Motion: _____

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Rob Kreibich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Gottlieb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gregg Underheim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Stephen Nass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Judy Krawczyk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Debra Towns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jennifer Shilling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Pocan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Larry Balow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Spencer Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Marlin Schneider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 7 4 _____ _____





United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703-2500 Phone (608) 263-3422 Fax (608) 265-4070

Drug Convictions and Financial Aid Eligibility AB 342

Current Law

Under current federal law, a student who has been convicted of a drug offense during their lifetime is ineligible for a federal loan, grant, or work study assistance for a period of time. Eligibility may be suspended for one year for a first conviction on a drug-possession charge; two years for a second conviction; and indefinitely for a third. A student can regain eligibility by completing a drug-rehabilitation program or by winning a reversal of the conviction or having it set aside. Current state law does not address this issue.

Bill's Recommendation

The bill would prohibit a college student who is -convicted of possessing, with intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver, or of manufacturing, distributing, or delivering, a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog from receiving financial aid for a period of time. The first conviction would leave the student ineligible for two years from the date of conviction, while a second conviction would suspend eligibility indefinitely, unless a student completes a drug-rehabilitation program or wins a reversal of the conviction or has it set aside.

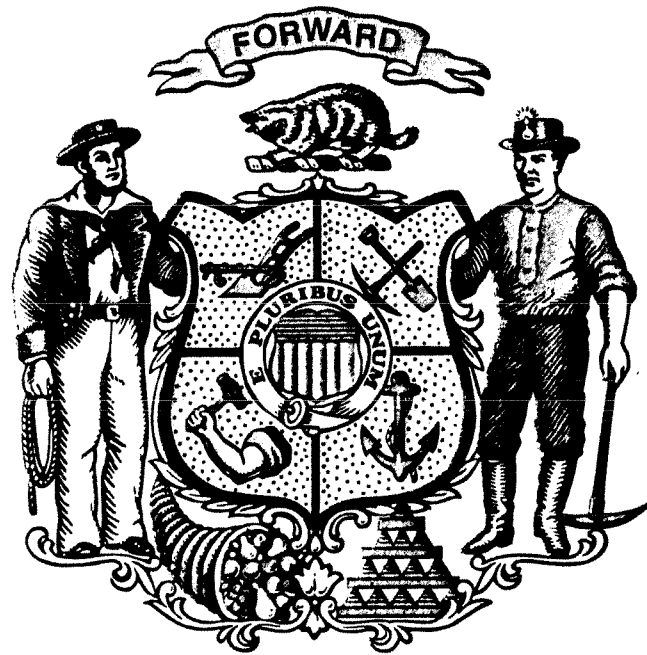
Discussion

1. Students in no way support the use of illicit and illegal drugs. Many work actively on their campuses to eliminate such problems with Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programming. However, the use of drug convictions as a blockade for financial aid is alarming.
2. The provision in AB 342 would single out only students who are convicted of possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver, or of manufacturing, distributing, or delivering, a controlled substance or controlled substance analog. This is the sole disqualifier and says nothing about students who are convicted of felonies and misdemeanors, such as sexual assault, robbery, fraud, or identity theft would not be disqualified from receiving financial aid.
3. Legislation that disqualifies students from receiving financial aid due to a drug conviction has a discriminatory impact. In Wisconsin, 38 percent of drug offenders admitted to prison were African-American, however white people only made up 17 percent of those admitted (National Corrections Reporting Program, 1996). African-Americans make up a percentage of those in prison that is disproportionate to the percentage of their population in this state, which is approximately six percent. Systemic racial profiling for drug convictions would have a corresponding effect on financial aid eligibility.

4. Although current federal law prohibits students from receiving financial aid if they are ever convicted of any drug offense, the provision is currently being amended with the full support of its original author, Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN), as Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965.
5. According to a November, 3, 2000 article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, almost 7,000 of nine million students who applied for federal aid for fall of 2000 were ineligible for some or all of the financial support because of recent convictions for drug-related offenses. At a time of unprecedented tuition increases and budget cuts, it is imperative that need-based aid is available for students who financially qualify.
6. Wisconsin has a variety of financial aid programs, in both grant and loan forms. The Wisconsin Higher Education Grant is the largest need-based grant in the state. Two other financial aid programs that are available specifically for UW System students are the Lawton Undergraduate Minority Retention Grant (LMURG) and the Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP). Both grant programs target students of color and economically disadvantaged students; LMURG is for undergraduates and AOP for graduate students.
7. In the 2000-01 academic year, 67,675 new Wisconsin college freshmen applied for financial aid. Of those applicants, 23,213 received state need-based grants (Higher Educational Aids Board, *2003 Report on Financial Aid Programs for Higher Education in the State of Wisconsin*).

Recommendation

Failure of AB 342.



Kriebich ^{Freese} Drug Dealer / Fin. Aid

Reps

LRB 2203/3

MAY 9

Sen

Suder

Lebham Sen lead

Zien

M. Lehman

Schulte

Montgomery

KANAVAS

J. Fitzgerald

COWLES

Gundrum

~~Lebham~~

GARD# 2

Roessler

Hahn

NASS

FYBENT

KANZCYK

HINES

LADWIG

~~ANN~~

Petrowski

OTT

Albers

OWENS

Freese

Bies

Pett's

Van Roy

Hundertmark