AN ACT to amend 39.41 (2) (b); and to create 39.41 (1) (c) of the statutes; relating to: eligibility of a student enrolled in a 2-year, full-time vocational diploma program at a technical college for an academic excellence higher education scholarship.

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

SECTION 1. 39.41 (1) (c) of the statutes is created to read:
39.41 (1) (c) “Vocational diploma” means a diploma granted to a person who has completed a 2-year, full-time program in an area designated and approved by the technical college system board for which the course requirements are established by that board.

SECTION 2. 39.41 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
39.41 (2) (b) For each year that a scholar who receives a scholarship under par. (a) is enrolled full time, maintains at least a 3.000 grade point average, or the equivalent as determined by the institution or district school, and makes satisfactory progress toward an associate or degree, a bachelor’s degree, or a vocational diploma, the student shall be exempt from all tuition and fees, including segregated fees, in the subsequent year, except that the maximum scholarship for a scholar who receives an original scholarship for the 1996–97 academic year or for any academic year thereafter may not exceed $2,250 per academic year. No scholar is eligible for an exemption for more than 4 years in the University of Wisconsin System or more than 3 years at a district school.

SECTION 3. Initial applicability.
(1) ELIGIBILITY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS. This act first applies to an academic excellence higher education scholarship originally awarded for the 2005–06 academic year.