

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
WTCS 1/27/2006

LRB Number	05-3913/1	Introduction Number	AB-916	Estimate Type	Original
Description Eligibility for tuition fee remission for family members of certain veterans					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 916 expands the eligibility created in 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 (the 2005 Budget Act) for tuition remission for spouses and children of veterans who attend one of the state's 16 technical colleges. Wisconsin Act 25 provides full remission to spouses, children or surviving spouses of veterans who entered service while a Wisconsin resident and who while a resident died or incurred a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more.

AB 916 expands eligibility by authorizing the exemption for spouses, surviving spouses and children of veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more if the veteran is a resident of Wisconsin and was a resident of the state for at least 15 continuous years before the student registers.

WTCS colleges impose tuition and fees to recover a portion of the costs of providing WTCS educational programs. These learner fees, along with state aid and property taxes, are the major college revenue sources.

The number of WTCS fee and tuition exemptions that might be granted under AB 916 is unknown. AB 916 does not provide GPR to fund the proposed exemption. Thus the remissions would create a potential mandatory cost increase for WTCS colleges, but would not have a state fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The number of WTCS fee and tuition exemptions that might be required under AB 916 is unknown. However, because AB 916 does not provide GPR to offset the tuition remissions authorized by the bill, WTCS colleges would be required to fund the annual cost of providing the remissions from other sources: non-veteran student tuition and local property taxes. As a result, to the extent that the provisions of AB 916 would attract additional enrollees, the remissions provided under AB 916 would increase local costs and decrease local revenue.