

☞ **05hr_AC-CU_ab0805_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Colleges and Universities...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (November 2012)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Colleges and Universities

Assembly Bill 805

Relating to: fee remissions at technical colleges for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

By Representatives Jeskewitz, Ballweg, Nischke, Grigsby, Young, Albers, Colon, Seidel, Owens, Sheridan, Turner, Hines, Toles, Lehman, Townsend, Fields and Sinicki; cosponsored by Senators Harsdorf, Wirch, Roessler and Miller.

November 01, 2005 Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

December 13, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (11) Representatives Kreibich, Ballweg, Underheim, Nass, Jeskewitz, Towns, Shilling, Schneider, Black, Boyle and Molepske.

Absent: (1) Representative Lamb.

Appearances For

- Mona Foy, Madison — WI Tech College System
- Sue Jeskewitz, Madison — Rep., State Rep.

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Paul Gabriel, Madison — WI Tech College District Boards

Registrations Against

- None.

December 13, 2005 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (11) Representatives Kreibich, Ballweg, Underheim, Nass, Jeskewitz, Towns, Shilling, Schneider, Black, Boyle and Molepske.

Absent: (1) Representative Lamb.

Moved by Representative Boyle, seconded by Representative Schneider that **Assembly Bill 805** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (11) Representatives Kreibich, Ballweg, Underheim, Nass, Jeskewitz, Towns, Shilling, Schneider, Black, Boyle and Molepske.

Noes: (0) None.

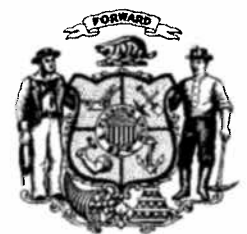
Absent: (1) Representative Lamb.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 11, Noes 0

Brad Hub
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Testimony Supporting AB 805
Fee Remissions for Needy and Worthy Hurricane Katrina Victims
Before the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
Morna Foy, Executive Assistant
Wisconsin Technical College System
December 13, 2005

Representative Kreibich and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of AB 805, a proposal to guarantee eligible victims of Hurricane Katrina resident tuition at a Wisconsin technical college for the next three years. I would also like to thank Representative Jeskewitz and the other co-sponsors for forwarding this proposal.

Under current law, the WTCS State Board is required to set uniform resident tuition and material fees at a level that recovers statutorily established percentages of program operating costs. The State Board is also required to set a nonresident fee based on 100% of the statewide cost per full-time equivalent student for operating the programs, minus the established resident tuition. This fee is added to resident tuition for nonresident students.

State law allows the President of the Technical College System to authorize technical college districts to remit nonresident fees to a limited number of needy and worthy students. A needy and worthy student must have demonstrated financial need, meet the normal technical college admission requirements and maintain satisfactory academic progress. The total number of students receiving such fee remissions cannot exceed 0.5 percent of the full-time equivalent statewide enrollment. At our current enrollment levels, the statutory limit would allow the WTCS to provide needy and worthy fee remissions to approximately 340-350 full-time equivalent students. The University of Wisconsin System is also allowed to remit nonresident fees for needy and worthy students, but there is no limit to the number of remissions that can be authorized.

When Hurricane Katrina struck, Wisconsin's technical colleges, like our counterparts across the country, reached out and offered assistance to those affected by this disaster. Right now, seventeen community and technical colleges in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama remain closed or are functioning on a limited basis because of Hurricane Katrina. In addition to college and student organized fundraisers and donations, Wisconsin's technical colleges have waived application fees, helped with financial aid applications and authorized nonresident tuition remissions for disaster victims under the needy and worthy provision.

Daniel Clancy, President

345 West Washington Ave. - 2nd Floor PO Box 7874 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7874 608.266.1207
TTY: 608.267.2483 Fax: 608.266.1690 e-mail: info@wtcsystem.org
www.wtcsystem.org www.witechcolleges.com

To date, 12 Hurricane Katrina victims have enrolled at five technical colleges. The System has been able to accommodate these students under our existing needy and worthy remission authority. However, districts' overall requests for needy and worthy authority are on the rise. In the 2005 fall semester alone, districts requested 25% more needy and worthy authority than in all of last year.

During the next three years, technical college needy and worthy fee remissions may not hit the statutory limit, but if they do, current law does not permit any exceptions. AB 805 would allow the WTCS to exempt needy and worthy remissions to Hurricane Katrina victims from counting against the statutory limit. It is important to note that AB 805 does not change the eligibility requirements for, or the benefits of, the needy and worthy fee remission and the exemption from the statutory limit would sunset after the 2007-08 school year. In addition, AB 805 does not grant any special status regarding program or class admission requirements or capacity. No current or entering Wisconsin student will be displaced by this proposal.

In asking for your support for AB 805, the Technical College System is simply asking for the ability to ensure it can honor its offer of assistance to needy and worthy Hurricane Katrina victims when they need our help the most.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the Committee today. I would be happy to answer any questions.



December 13, 2005

Testimony Supporting AB 805

Fee Remissions for Needy and Worthy Hurricane Katrina Victims
Before the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
Representative Rob Kreibich, Chair

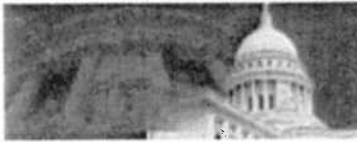
The Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association supports AB 805, to assure that dislocated student victims of Hurricane Katrina who enroll in a Wisconsin Technical College can be accommodated within existing policies for the granting of “needy and worthy” non-resident fee remissions. Current law provides that the WTCS President may authorize a district board to remit the non-resident portion of tuition for a limited number students annually who are determined to be “needy and worthy” as defined by administrative rule. The total number of remissions statewide is limited to 0.5% of total full time enrollment annually.

This bill provides flexibility to accommodate victims of Hurricane Katrina if they are determined to be “needy and worthy” as an exception to the 0.5% limit *if necessary*. It is not clear that the number of incoming needy and worthy students will test the current limit. This bill simply assures that the WTCS can honor the promise it makes to students should the numbers be high enough to reach the limit. The Katrina exception would be limited to a period of three academic years from 2005-06 through 2007-08. Importantly, the bill in no way alters the “needy and worthy” requirement for a remission. Similarly, it does not grant any special status regarding program or class admission requirements or capacity. No current or entering Wisconsin student will be displaced by this assistance.

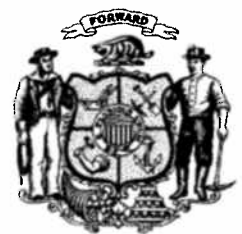
At this time, seventeen community and technical colleges in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama remain closed or extremely limited in functioning because of Hurricane Katrina. The WTCS has offered a range of assistance to our Gulf Coast-area colleagues. Dr. Walter Bumphus, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, recently responded to those offers stating in part: “Please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for your willingness to accommodate our displaced students, and to assist our affected institutions. ... We are humbled and thankful....”

This bill assures the WTCS can honor the offer of assistance and the spirit of cooperation by accepting displaced students knowing there will be “needy and worthy” capacity for those who qualify. On behalf of Wisconsin Technical College District Boards, we thank the bill’s co-sponsors and hope the committee will add its support to AB 805.

Paul Gabriel
Executive Director



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





SUE JESKEWITZ

State Representative • 24th Assembly District

TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 805
HURRICANE KATRINA – WTCS BILL
REPRESENTATIVE SUE JESKEWITZ
December 13, 2005

Chairperson Kreibich and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 805.

Currently, the technical college system allows a number of needy and worthy students to receive resident tuition, as long as the number does not exceed 0.5 percent of the full-time equivalent statewide enrollment.

This bill would allow the technical college system to exceed that limit in the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years in order to grant resident tuition to the victims of Hurricane Katrina without affecting other students who fit this category.

This bill allows Katrina victims who have relocated to Wisconsin the ability to begin or continue in their studies without having to pay non-resident tuition. This is not a scholarship, it simply allows them to pay resident tuition rates.

Many of these students have not only lost their colleges, but their homes and economic support as well. This bill would allow the Wisconsin Technical College System to meet at least the academic needs for the Katrina victims for the next three years.

Thank you.



Testimony
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
Kevin P. Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System
December 13, 2005
412 East, State Capitol

Good morning, Mr. Chair and committee members. I am here today to talk about the role of an important group of our employees, referred to as resident assistants, otherwise known as RAs or house fellows. I'll be brief so that there will be time to respond to questions committee members may have.

One of our goals as a university is to provide rich, fulfilling educational programs for students who choose to live in housing on our campuses. RAs play a critical role in delivering these residence life programs to our students on campus. They live and work in residence halls so they can be available to students whenever they need help. They are state employees who receive compensation which covers their room and board expenses, and includes a per-semester stipend.

As a university, we encourage inquiry into all disciplines and ideas, including religious studies. In this area, and in others, we encourage students to develop and grow in their own way. There is a difference, however, between inquiry and recruitment.

Recently, concerns have been raised about the constitutionality of university policies or practices that restrict RAs from leading, organizing or recruiting students for certain activities in their rooms or residence halls in which they work. Every one of our campuses expects its resident assistants to be approachable by all residents any time the RA is in his or her hall.

While current concerns focus specifically on religious activities that RAs might lead, policies in this area have implications for the full range of constitutionally protected speech, including political activities.

These are complex and sensitive questions that go to the heart of our values as a democracy. They also, of course, directly affect our educational goals for residence life programs. It is important that our policies in such serious matters are in line with constitutional requirements, and are consistent throughout the UW System.

To that end, I have asked UW Chancellors to nominate residence life and student affairs professionals to serve on an advisory group that will examine the role of RAs in residence life programs. These professionals will look at the relationship of RA activities to the wide educational experiences we offer our students, and the expectations of RAs as university employees and as mentors for students.

This advisory group will make recommendations to me by January 9th on the appropriate level of involvement of RAs in leading and organizing activities for students who live in the residence halls. We will consider these recommendations – and information from this hearing and from anyone else who wants to weigh in – as we develop a systemwide written policy on these issues.

A lawsuit has now been filed challenging UW-Eau Claire's prior practices with regard to the activities of RAs. While this litigation is pending, it would be inappropriate for me or other UW System employees to comment further on the specifics of the UW-Eau Claire case.

So, I am not here to discuss UW-Eau Claire's practice in this regard, which as you know has now been suspended. There is no System policy in this regard. That's why I have directed UW campuses to enforce their policies and practices in this area only if complaints are received about specific conduct by RAs, and those complaints are found to be valid.

Nevertheless, I do want to say that I believe we can come up with a policy that protects individual employee rights to personal activities, while assuring a living environment that is free of undue pressure to participate in any activity whether it be religious, political, or social. If you too believe we can do that, if you too believe we should do that, I'd like to get your best advice on how we do that.

That concludes my remarks, Mr. Chairman. I'd be happy to respond to your questions and suggestions.

###