2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 708

January 18, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives HINES, MUSSER, ALBERS, BERCEAU, BIES, GUNDERSON, HAHN, LOTHIAN, OWENS, SHERIDAN, VAN ROY, M. WILLIAMS and BOYLE, cosponsored by Senators OLSEN, LEHMAN, ROESSLER and SCHULTZ. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

AN ACT to create 36.27 (2) (b) 5. of the statutes; relating to: nonresident tuition exceptions.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an adult student enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System is exempt from paying nonresident tuition if he or she has been a bona fide Wisconsin resident for at least 12 months before enrollment. In determining bona fide residence, the intent of the person to establish and maintain a permanent home in Wisconsin is determinative, but a student who enters and remains in Wisconsin principally to obtain an education is presumed to continue to reside outside Wisconsin. Current law provides exemptions from the payment of nonresident tuition to a number of persons, including the following:

1. Nonresident members of the armed forces who are stationed in this state on active duty.
2. Members of the armed forces who reside in this state but are stationed at a federal installation within 90 miles of this state.
3. Nonresidents who served honorably in active duty in the armed forces for at least ten years and who filed Wisconsin income tax returns for at least eight of the past ten years.
4. Persons who were residents of this state at the time of entry into active duty and who are veterans for purpose of receiving state veteran benefits.

This bill grants a nonresident tuition exemption to a person who is a veteran for purpose of receiving state veteran benefits, who paid state income taxes for at least two consecutive years that ended immediately before he or she registered at the
university, who has been registered to vote in the state for at least the previous year, and who is a resident of and living in the state at the time of registering at the university.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 36.27 (2) (b) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

36.27 (2) (b) 5. A person who is a veteran, as defined in s. 45.01 (12), who has paid Wisconsin income taxes for at least 2 consecutive taxable years that ended immediately before the year in which the person registers at an institution, who has been registered to vote in Wisconsin for at least one year immediately before registering at an institution, and who is a resident of and living in this state at the time of registering at an institution, is entitled to the exemption under par. (a).

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to students who enroll for classes in the 2008–09 academic year.